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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 12th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KRENKEL (Austria)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15. a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 93: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (*continued*)

(a) QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS AND THE FAMILY (*continued*) (A/47/214-E/1992/50, A/47/216-E/1992/43, A/47/339, A/47/349, A/47/369, A/47/415; A/C.3/47/4)

(b) CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (*continued*) (A/47/379, A/47/381, A/47/399 and Corr.1, A/47/87, A/47/232-S/24025 and Corr.1, A/47/356-S/24367, A/47/80-S/23502, A/47/88-S/23563, A/47/312-S/24238, A/47/344, A/47/391)

1. Mr. SOMAVIA (Chile), Special Representative of the Secretary-General, recalled that, in its resolution 1992/27, the Economic and Social Council had recommended that the General Assembly should convene a world summit for social development, at the level of heads of State and/or Government, to be held in early 1995. Since the adoption of that resolution, the interest expressed in the summit, which had received widespread support had continually increased. Nevertheless delegations should not let themselves be carried away by enthusiasm, since the summit would require careful preparation.

2. In the first place, the summit must have the proper approach, and thought should already be given to its outcome. The note by the Secretary-General on the world summit for social development (E/1992/80, paras. 22 and 23) outlined suitable objectives. The summit would be organized with a view to strengthening existing United Nations structures, and no new agency would be established. Secondly, it was essential for the success of the summit that the issues to be addressed by it should be precisely stated, should reflect priority areas and should be of a limited number. In that context, three issues had already emerged: the alleviation and reduction of poverty, the generation of productive employment and the promotion of greater social cohesion. Once the main themes had been decided on, it was important not to define them in too much detail, since what was most important was to formulate the objectives of the summit. Thirdly, lessons should be drawn from the experiences of preparing for the World Summit for Children and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The work of the Commission for Social Development, the high-level debate in the Economic and Social Council and the views of Governments, as expressed in the General Assembly, and of the regional commissions and specialized agencies, should also be utilized. The entire process should culminate in the establishment of a preparatory committee, to be convened probably once in late 1993 and twice in 1994; it should be preceded by an organizational meeting, probably in March or April 1993, to be convened after the meeting of the Commission for Social Development held in Vienna.

3. It would be desirable for the preparatory committee to consist of representatives of heads of State and/or Government, as representation at that level would have the advantage of lending the desired prestige to the

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preparatory committee (which should also receive the requisite political support), eliminating jurisdictional disputes among the various technical ministries in charge of social development and ensuring that the prerequisites for the success of the summit had been met (political commitment, technical competence and diplomatic experience on the part of the participants). An administrative unit should be set up within the Secretariat to assist the preparatory committee. He noted that the Danish Government had offered to host the summit in Copenhagen (A/C.3/47/4).

4. The basic assumption should be that the world summit for social development was as important as the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and should receive the same level of funding; in other words, the summit should be financed partially from the United Nations regular budget and partially from voluntary contributions, and the funds allocated from the Organization's regular budget should be of the same magnitude as those which had been allocated for the Conference. If the financing of the summit was modelled as closely as possible on that of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, that would avert a political debate over the Organization's priorities, for example, the role of peace-keeping operations as compared to actions to benefit hungry children.

5. Mr. RAVEN (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Community, and referring to agenda item 93 (a), said that the profound changes which had occurred during the 1980s and the 1990s had wide economic and social implications which required the adoption of appropriate measures by the international community. There appeared to be general agreement on the objective of balanced and sustainable development, with growing recognition of its linkages with democracy and human rights, and on priority being given to providing the means for self-help.

6. While there was agreement on the need, the possibility and even the means for improving people's living and social conditions, that could be achieved only if developed and developing countries acted jointly. Accordingly, the European Community attached importance to intergovernmental partnerships as well as to collaboration between governments, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and international financial institutions.

7. There were a number of international agreements designed to improve the world social situation. They were all based on the concept of cooperation, including the Lomé Convention, the European Community's generalized system of preferences, its programmes of financial and technical cooperation with Asia and Latin America, the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes adopted by the General Assembly in 1989 and the Paris Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s. The European Community, which had also traditionally attached great importance to cooperation with developing countries, had endorsed the United Nations target for official development assistance of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP).

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(Mr. Raven, United Kingdom)

8. With regard to the proposed world summit on social development, the European Community welcomed the Danish Government's generous offer to host the summit in Copenhagen. In accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, Member States had pledged themselves to promote higher standards of living, employment and economic and social development. The European Community would play an active role in the preparations for the summit. The summit would provide an opportunity to create greater awareness of the interdependence of economic and social development and greater understanding of ways to achieve sustainable development by protecting the most vulnerable groups in society. The European Community had taken note of the three primary issues which the Secretary-General, in his report to the Economic and Social Council (E/1992/80), had proposed for discussion at the summit: the alleviation and reduction of poverty, the generation of productive employment and the strengthening of social cohesion. The European Community, which was convinced that all people should be encouraged to play a full role in society and should be entitled to benefit from the principles of good governance, would participate actively in the preparation of a cogent agenda.

9. As the European Community had already made statements in plenary meeting on persons with disabilities and on ageing, he turned to the question of youth. The European Community recognized that it was vital for young people to participate in the political, economic, social and cultural life of a country in order to ensure its future development. The momentum created by the International Youth Year in 1985 had declined, and efforts in that area should be revitalized through the formulation of a realistic and pragmatic programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond, focusing on operational activities designed to involve national and international youth organizations. The European Community again stressed, in that connection, the importance of communication, cooperation and exchanges between young people in developed and developing countries, and between representatives of world-wide youth organizations within the United Nations system.

10. He drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General (A/47/349), which described the difficulties currently faced by young people, including the shortfall in primary education in the least developed countries, worsening youth unemployment in both developing and developed countries, and threats to the health and well-being of young people: malnutrition, sexually transmitted diseases, including acquired immuno deficiency syndrome (AIDS), alcohol consumption, drug abuse and early marriages and teenage pregnancy.

11. In dealing with those problems, the European Community was continuing to develop action-oriented programmes to promote vocational education and training and the mobility of young people, students and workers, with a view to promoting exchanges of experience among Member States and to facilitating the entry of people under 25 years of age into the labour market.

12. The European Community had welcomed the convening of the World Summit for Children in September 1990 and the adoption by it of the World Declaration on

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Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan for its Implementation of Action. The European Community was committed to playing a full part in the implementation of the Plan of Action, and it recognized the important role which the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) must play in assisting States to develop national strategies for the achievement of the Summit objectives.

13. The question of street children was another serious problem to which the European Community had devoted attention. Street children were forced by circumstances beyond their control to live on the margins of the adult world. In developing countries, they were the product of rural migration, unemployment, poverty and broken families. In industrialized countries, they were often subject to systematic exclusion. Alone, malnourished, denied affection, education and help, they were often driven by frustration to crime, drug abuse, violence and prostitution. As big cities grew, so did the number of street children; there were now an estimated 30 million of them in the world. The European Community intended to address the issue further in the Third Committee at the current session.

14. With regard to the International Year of the Family, which would take place in 1994, the European Community hoped that it would highlight the crucial role of the family in social development, including the different types of family structure. Adequate preparation was essential in order to ensure the full participation of Governments, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the general public.

15. Lastly, the European Community, reaffirming the importance which it attached to the question of social justice, drew attention to the European Council's Declaration of June 1991, which stated that respect for human rights, the rule of law and the existence of effective, accountable and democratic political institutions were the basis for equitable development.

16. Mr. WOTAVA (Austria), referring to agenda item 93 (a), said that, as the Chairman had noted in his statement of 29 September 1992, the social problems of mankind continued to increase despite the remarkable efforts undertaken to eradicate them. One billion human beings, or one fifth of the world population, lived in deplorable conditions of poverty. There were now more poor people, more unemployed and greater social insecurity than 10 years earlier, and 40,000 children were still dying each day. Drug abuse, the lack of health services and all forms of crime completed that bleak picture.

17. The social situation was of the utmost importance not only to every individual, but to every State, whose political stability was determined by it. The achievement of world-wide social peace was therefore a collective responsibility which required immediate action. The United Nations system had made every effort so far to improve the situation. In particular, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and its specialized units had, despite limited personnel and financial resources, produced international

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documents of crucial importance to nearly every human being in the world (for example, the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women of 1979, the United Nations Principles for Older Persons adopted by the Commission for Social Development in 1991, the standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons and the draft declaration on the elimination of violence against women which had been elaborated by the Commission on the Status of Women in September 1992).

18. All those achievements, however, could not counterbalance the deterioration of the social situation in many areas. Even the world summit for social development, which the United Nations was preparing to convene, would not be able to address all the problems. It would, however, identify priority areas for action and provide Governments with guidelines for ensuring the satisfaction of basic needs and the improvement of the quality of life of people everywhere, through the reduction of poverty and the promotion of employment. It would also increase global consciousness of social problems. Accordingly, Austria was looking forward to that United Nations initiative and would lend its full support to the convening of the summit. In that connection, his delegation welcomed Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/27 of 30 July 1992, the third preambular paragraph of which stressed the importance of involving the concerned organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, in particular the Commission for Social Development, in the preparations for the proposed summit.

19. The United Nations had accepted, as a follow-up to the International Youth Year in 1985, the themes of participation, development and peace as the principles of a global strategy for youth. The tenth anniversary in 1995 would be an opportunity to focus world attention on youth issues, in view of the changing international political and economic situation and its impact on young people and their organizations.

20. In the light of those goals, Austria in 1987 had set up a youth employment programme called HOPE '87, which stood for "Hundreds of Original Projects for Employment". The programme was financed basically by the Austrian Federal Government but also more and more by private sponsors. In March 1991, a memorandum of understanding on the promotion of youth employment through HOPE '87 had been signed by Austria and the United Nations Office at Vienna. Close cooperation had also been initiated with the Division of Youth of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and had been concretized in 1992 by the first common project, in Bangladesh, which had been co-financed by UNESCO and HOPE '87. A cooperation agreement had also been concluded with the European Youth Centre of the Council of Europe.

21. At the national level, HOPE '87 cooperated in the development and financing of projects with the Fund for Eastern European Countries,

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established by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Employment and Social Affairs, and with the Department for International Cooperation of the Federal Chancellery. With a total budget for the past five years of approximately US$ 1.1 million, HOPE '87 had financed and carried out some 50 projects in 22 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe. They had usually been small, income-generating projects for young people from 17 to 30 years of age, with each project providing stable employment to several dozen young people directly and to many more indirectly. The HOPE '87 programme was based on practical assistance through a network of offices and regional coordinators in 20 countries around the world. The initiative had so far created several hundred jobs for young people and, despite budgetary restraints, could be regarded as a very successful attempt to implement some of the guidelines which the United Nations had developed for youth programmes. On the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the establishment of HOPE '87, his delegation would welcome all financial or other contributions from Member States and non-governmental organizations; such contributions would expand the possibilities for employment and income for young people through small-scale projects in the third world and in Eastern Europe.

22. Austria, which attached great importance to all developments concerning the family, was paying particular attention to the preparations for and the observance of the International Year of the Family in 1994. At the beginning of 1992, a Committee on the Family had been established at Vienna to coordinate all non-governmental activities for the Year. That non-governmental organization, which had a permanent secretariat at Vienna, had already drawn up a draft action plan.

23. At the national level, Austria had established a special Committee of the Advisory Council for Family Policy; the Council had decided to establish an Austrian national committee for the preparation of the International Year of the Family, to be presided over by the Austrian Federal Minister for the Environment, Youth and Family. Fifteen expert working groups had also been set up to study the themes and priorities defined by the Advisory Council for Family Policy, the main ones being as follows: families and violence, living space, housing, employment, youth, older persons, disabled persons, special burdens, the legal system, health, society, the media and education.

24. Mr. BUTLER (Australia) said that since the Canadian delegation would be speaking on behalf of Canada, New Zealand and Australia on agenda item 93 (b), he would confine his present remarks to item 93 (a) and, more specifically, to preparations for the proposed world summit for social development to be held in 1995. If correctly focused, that summit should contribute to the reform of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations, thereby enhancing the capacity of the system to address socio-economic issues and improving the delivery of its social development programmes. The summit should also help to expand international dialogue and cooperation between national agencies responsible for social policy development. The United Nations must be active in the three areas identified by the Charter, namely, security of States,

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economic cooperation and humanitarian and social development. The high-level segment of the recent session of the Economic and Social Council had recognized the indivisible link between peace and security on the one hand and economic and social development on the other, while the Secretary-General had noted that any structure built to deal with threats to international peace and security would be unworkable if it did not rest on a foundation of economic health, growth and development and social welfare of peoples. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund had also stressed the need for growth and structural development policies to be accompanied by sound social policies. The international community must help to provide security to individuals and families, as the Security Council had acknowledged at its January 1992 Summit Meeting, when it had drawn attention to non-military threats to peace and security (narcotic drugs, AIDS, environment and employment). The United Nations could be likened to a stool with three legs: the Security Council was working on the security leg; the second leg - a revitalized and effective set of economic institutions - was being worked on by the Ad Hoc Working Group set up by the Economic and Social Council in July 1992; and work had begun on the third leg - community - with the reform of United Nations drug control programmes and the development of United Nations human rights machinery. Those efforts notwithstanding, it was clear that the development gap had grown wider and that poverty was one of the gravest problems confronting the world. Infant mortality, public health, education and employment were all determinants of the standard of living to which all human beings aspired for themselves and their families. The world summit for social development would be an opportunity to reflect on ways of achieving the objectives of social development and social justice both nationally and internationally. Many tools, guidelines, strategies, standards, plans of action and principles for promoting effective and sustainable social development already existed at the international level. What was lacking was effective implementation. The task therefore was not to create new mechanisms but to enhance and better coordinate existing programmes and to take coherent action throughout the United Nations system as well as through national Governments. There was broad support for a world summit for social development: several United Nations agencies had been re-evaluating the general direction of their policies and programmes and looking for more effective strategies to achieve their goals. The agenda for the summit was potentially very large. It was important therefore to prepare well and to avoid an unfocused and hence weakened approach. Certain key areas should be identified which the international community could agree were of concern to all and from which individual Member States could derive benefit when they came to develop their own national social welfare policies. Those directly responsible for formulating and implementing social policy should therefore be actively involved, from the outset, in preparations for the summit, so that countries could have a fruitful exchange of views and learn about each other's experiences.

25. Of the three key priorities mentioned by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General - poverty alleviation, increased employment and social cohesion - his country had found that social cohesion was fundamental to

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effective and sustained social development. Although difficult to define, social cohesion could be stimulated or enhanced by a range of government policies. The United Nations too could stimulate social cohesion through its interdisciplinary and multidimensional approach, and had already done so on a number of occasions. The UNCED process, for instance, had highlighted the role of women in achieving ecologically sustainable development, while the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women provided a solid framework for policy implementation. Many other standards and guidelines complemented national policies in the areas of health, population, human rights, work practices, crime and development assistance. At its two special sessions devoted to disabled persons and to ageing, the General Assembly had sent a clear message as to the usefulness of the policy framework provided by the United Nations and had emphasized the value of national policies based on the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the International Plan of Action on Ageing. One key objective of the summit would, in his delegation's view, be to integrate those existing standards and guidelines into all policies and programmes delivered by the United Nations. The summit might also help to draw attention to the need to channel appropriate national resources to social development in order to avoid poverty, unemployment, crime and corruption, homelessness, ghettos, marginalization, discrimination and xenophobia.

26. Ms. OUEDRAOGO (Burkina Faso), speaking on item 93 (a), said that on the eve of the twenty-first century, despite all the talk of a new world order, an objective analysis of the world social situation yielded a very grim picture. Three quarters of human kind lived in deprivation and ignorance, and 20 per cent of the world's population controlled 83 per cent of global earnings while the poorest 20 per cent shared only 1.4 per cent.

27. Africa was coping with natural disasters that were compounded by the adverse effects of the international economic crisis, the external debt burden, customs and tariff barriers and rapid population growth. It still had to follow the course stipulated by structural adjustment programmes however, with no visible results.

28. The right to development was an inalienable human right and questions relating to the human person and his or her well-being were fundamental to the attainment of sustainable development. Social development programmes should never separate economic and social issues, for those two aspects were inextricably linked: lack of financial resources had often hindered the implementation of social programmes, and the success of social programmes helped to enhance the economic situation. In order to ensure economic and social development, people must be given the means to attain food self-sufficiency and also access to housing, drinking water, health services, education and information in a healthy environment so that each group in society, without distinction, could live a healthy, free, balanced and peaceful life.

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29. The family was the foundation of all social development. Her country had just adopted a new code of the individual and the family, eliminating retrograde practices which did not recognize certain rights of women and children. Moreover, in the context of the International Year of the Family, a national interministerial committee was preparing a plan of action for family well-being.

30. Her delegation welcomed the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, and also the adoption of the draft resolution containing the Proclamation on Ageing aimed at integrating older persons into development projects and programmes, in which it was decided to observe 1999 as the International Year of Older Persons (A/47/L.5/Rev.1). It should be noted, however, that by bringing forward retirement age, the structural adjustment programmes which developing countries were being forced to implement were producing more and more "young retirees" (retirement age was 53 in Burkina Faso) who, being still in the prime of life, must return to active life in order to promote development.

31. Young people were a social group that had its own identity, needs and particular problems. They also represented hope and therefore required special attention. Young people must be educated, trained and integrated into the development process. Today they numbered more than 1.12 billion throughout the world and more than 833 million were in developing countries. In those countries, the problems of unemployment and underemployment of young people were particularly acute, especially in Africa where students finishing advanced studies joined the already high number of persons unemployed because of illiteracy, economic stagnation and the lack of professional qualifications. The lack of work gave rise to juvenile delinquency and increased crime (robbery, drug abuse and trafficking, and prostitution), not to mention the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS. Education and training for all therefore were still an objective to be achieved in a number of developing countries where the illiteracy rate was still too high among rural young people.

32. Burkina Faso, a country with an 80 per cent rate of illiteracy, was aware of the fact that educating young people and adults was necessary for development. A study conducted in connection with the International Literacy Day revealed that 8,874 literacy centres had taken part in the training of 266,220 young people and adults in the management of mills, village pharmacies, shops and cooperatives and also in the area of health. Women were encouraged to participate in those programmes. Furthermore, public action projects for educational purposes had been set up to establish a network for instruction, communication and dialogue with street youth. Although the coordination mechanisms recommended in the main guidelines of the International Youth Year in order to better integrate problems affecting young people in national development plans had not functioned because of a lack of financial resources, their implementation remained indispensible. The preparations for the tenth anniversary of International Youth Year should help

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improve the situation of young people through consideration and an in-depth evaluation of the measures taken to develop capacities in the field of planning and execution at all levels and the formulation of a realistic and practical world programme of action for the medium and long term. In August 1992, Burkina Faso had hosted the regional Conference on African Youth, aimed at laying down strategies to ensure the well-being of those young people, whose critical situation required that steps should be taken to encourage, develop and support policies and programmes for their benefit.

33. Under resolution 37/52, the General Assembly had adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and proclaimed the period 1983-1992 as the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons. Nevertheless, at the end of the Decade, it was clear that the success rate for achieving the objectives of the Programme of Action (prevention, readaptation and ensuring equality of opportunity) had been very low, and even imperceptible in some countries. People had nevertheless become aware of the situation of the disabled and their right not to be marginalized.

34. One could only deplore the fact that during the Decade, the number of disabled persons had increased because of wars, violence, disease, hunger, malnutrition and poverty. It would be possible to implement the Programme of Action in developing countries only through increased international cooperation.

35. In Burkina Faso, the national policy for the social and economic reintegration of disabled persons had succeeded in reviving a spirit of solidarity. Micro-projects providing support for the disabled had been put into operation. Although responsibility was taken for disabled persons and they were organized in associations and benefited from social assistance and bank loans in order to engage in economic activity, much still remained to be done.

36. Her delegation welcomed the holding of the plenary meetings of the General Assembly marking the end of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons and the adoption of the draft resolution (A/47/L.4), proclaiming 3 December as the International Day of Disabled Persons. It was hoped that observance of the Day would be an opportunity to carry out an annual assessment of the actions undertaken.

37. At a time when the social situation was worsening in developing countries (deterioration of living conditions, continued existence and growth of poverty, and plummeting of the main social and economic indicators), the causes of those negative trends and the circumstances underlying them should be analysed in detail.

38. The report of the Secretary-General on the world social situation should, in 1993, analyse the impact of the economic problems of developing countries on the world social situation and consider the relationship between economic

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(Ms. Ouedraogo, Burkina Faso)

growth and development. In that connection, her delegation welcomed the adoption of Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/27, which recommended the convening of a world summit for social development at the beginnning of 1995,

39. The preparatory meetings for the summit should take stock of the various obstacles impeding social development and elaborate a strategy for action programmes by taking account of the different national and regional contexts. It would also be necessary to find low-cost solutions, consider the concept of self-sufficiency and strengthen regional cooperation in order to promote trade. Furthermore, the holding of the world summit should not entail heavy expenses, which would subsequently compromise, as had frequently happened in the past, the implementation of the plan of action owing to a lack of financial resources.

40. Her delegation believed that a good start would be made by giving the United Nations a central role. In that connection, the major world conferences on human rights, women, preparations for the International Year of the Family, the world summit for social development, the World Summit for Children and the World Conference on Environment and Development would make it possible to draw up and implement strategies aimed at ensuring social well-being so that people would be able to have a better future.

41. Mr. SUAZO (Honduras), speaking on behalf of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, wished at the outset to express the solidarity of the peoples of Central America with the peoples of Egypt and Colombia in connection with the natural disasters that had just struck those countries.

42. Central America had just experienced one of the most important crises in its history, a crisis that had been resolved in favour of democracy in the region. The Central American countries had succeeded in reconciling points of view that they had earlier regarded as incompatible and, in spite of profound internal divisions, were working together to promote reconciliation and implement joint policies in all sectors - including social development, to which they gave particular attention.

43. Referring to the various ongoing and planned activities of United Nations bodies in the field of social development, the importance of which he underscored in so doing, the representative of Honduras said that the countries of Central America supported the holding, in Cairo in 1994, of the International Conference on Population and Development. Those countries had been the first to take a firm decision in favour of convening, in 1995, a world summit for social development and were committed to playing an active role in the consideration of the question by the General Assembly at its current, forty-seventh session. They hoped that the summit would be an opportunity for leading Member States to commit themselves to making the individual the focal point of plans for development and international cooperation.

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(Mr. Suazo, Honduras)

44. The Central American countries took note of the offer by Denmark to host the world summit for social development. They shared the view of the Secretary-General that democracy exercised in a framework of openness and honesty, an independent judicial branch, respect for law and domestic peace were essential for economic progress and lasting social progress, and welcomed the holding, in Vienna in 1993 of the World Conference on Human Rights.

45. Despite the multilateral and bilateral programmes of technical and financial cooperation put into effect by United Nations bodies and certain friendly Governments, living conditions had continued to deteriorate in some Central American countries, as they had in most developing countries. Those countries had to make great sacrifices to give priority to social development policies, a task made particularly difficult by their foreign debt, economic readjustment programmes, reduced market access for their products, tariff barriers, the imposition of restrictive quota systems and the absence of appropriate modern technology. The Central American countries continued nevertheless to implement social development programmes aimed for the most part at creating large numbers of jobs and promoting and financing projects for infrastructure, education, health, nutrition and waste water treatment. The resources received from abroad were managed with professional skill and with an eye to honesty and transparency by social investment funds.

46. Because of their increasingly worrisome situation, the Central American countries had decided, at their tenth summit meeting held in El Salvador, to work to raise the peoples' standard of living. That was essential not only for developing their human resources but also for achieving sustainable economic development. They had also decided, at their eleventh summit meeting held at Tegucigalpa, to promote human development by encouraging the participation of each individual in national development efforts and to set clearly defined priorities and objectives. As part of the follow-up to those two summit meetings, the Governments of the Central American countries had drawn up national plans of action in which they set targets for social development and undertook to achieve them by mobilizing and allocating the necessary resources. They hoped they would be supported in their regional effort by the international community and would thus be able to attain the objectives set forth in Article 55 of the Charter: "higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress and development".

47. Mr. DAHA (Pakistan) said that the capacity of developing countries to attain their basic social objectives was seriously affected by poverty, the debt problem and structural adjustment. Their actions in the areas of health, food, education, housing and poverty eradication were the first to be affected by the structural adjustment policies imposed on them by multilateral financial institutions. The most vulnerable groups - women, children, youth, the aged and the underprivileged - were the first to suffer.

48. He shared the view that the deterioration in standards of living and social conditions during the 1980s needed to be arrested and inequalities

(Mr. Daha, Pakistan)

removed. However, that raised some fundamental questions: had the developing countries the potential to create an economic environment similar to that achieved by the developed countries? Did the loans and other forms of aid provided by the developed countries really help the developing countries? Could the United Nations provide a sense of security to developing countries so that they would divert some of their expenditures on defence to the social sector? How could the developing countries arrest the uncontrolled growth of urban slums? How could social, ethical and moral values be protected in the face of commercialized mass culture? The developing countries were beginning to realize that one way out of their dilemma lay in adopting austerity measures and reducing their dependence on foreign assistance. However, that policy was not without difficulties, since the peoples of developing countries rightfully aspired to the living conditions of the developed countries, as projected by the mass media. Narrowing the gap between rich and poor was an essential prerequisite for a stable world order.

49. Given their resource constraints, developing countries must direct their national social development policies towards specific groups and objectives. Pakistan had identified, as target groups for its social welfare projects, children, women, youth, the disabled, widows, orphans, senior citizens, the destitute, prisoners and ex-convicts, migrants and refugees. It had formulated a social action programme for human resources and social development for the period 1993-1998, the objectives of which were: making access to primary education universal, with the participation rate for boys and girls increased from the current 87 per cent and 54.5 per cent to 100 per cent and 90 per cent respectively; decentralizing the public health sector and creating a balance between prevention, treatment and health promotion; reducing the population growth rate from 3.1 per cent to 2.5 per cent per annum by the end of the century; making potable water supply available to 100 per cent and 90 per cent of the urban and rural population respectively, and sanitation facilities to 90 per cent and 75 per cent of urban and rural inhabitants; allocating 1 per cent of GNP to pollution control and environmental protection; and, lastly, implementing a master plan for national narcotics control.

50. Turning to the three reports of the Secretary-General on crime prevention and criminal justice (A/47/379, A/47/381 and A/47/399), he noted that the fight against international organized crime called for a truly international approach. While Pakistan was strongly in favour of increased cooperation in that field, it felt that there was a need to address the socio-economic inequities which were often the underlying cause of most common crimes. Emphasis needed to be given to assisting the developing countries in implementing their economic and social development programmes in improving their national machinery for crime prevention and control by providing them with the financial and other means needed for that purpose.

51. with regard to disabled persons, Pakistan agreed as to the necessity of a shift from awareness-raising to action with the aim of achieving a society for all by the year 2010, and looked forward to the finalization of the draft

(Mr. Daha, Pakistan)

long-term strategy to implement the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons beyond the Decade and the draft standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons.

52. With regard to ageing, Pakistan had supported the endorsement by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session of the action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond. Although problems associated with ageing were not so acute in Pakistan, because of the close-knit family system and community living, the Government had taken a number of steps in that connection: a national committee on ageing had prepared a national plan of action aimed at enabling the ageing population to enjoy a life of fulfilment, health and security in their own families and communities.

53. Aware of its responsibility towards young people and the potential they represented, his Government had established a youth investment promotion society whose main purpose was to tackle unemployment among educated youth by providing technical assistance and guidance and soft loans for education. The Government had also established vocational training units and socio-economic centres to equip young people with skills enabling them to obtain gainful employment.

54. His delegation supported the proposal for convening a world summit for social development in 1995. It hoped that the Assembly would adopt that proposal at its current session and would initiate a meaningful preparatory process, which took into account all aspects of and obstacles to social development.

55. Mrs. KABA CAMARA (Côte d'Ivoire) said that the conclusion of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons and the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Ageing had made it possible to take stock of the progress made in some parts of the world and the scant results achieved in developing countries in two areas that complemented each other, the main object being to provide equal opportunities for all, regardless of age or physical condition. The report in document A/47/339 proposed eight global targets for the year 2001 with a view to encouraging the integration of people over the age of 60 into the development process. Given the increasing number of elderly persons, 80 per cent of whom lived in the developing countries, there was an urgent need to review social structures and retirement systems which rendered unproductive men and women who could offer both experience and maturity.

56. The United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons had made Member States aware that physical or mental disability should not prevent a person from playing a full role in society. The long-term, step-by-step national affirmative action plan for disabled persons for the period 1993-2002, proposed by the United Nations, aimed to translate that awareness into concrete action. The United Nations Centre for Social Development and

(Mrs. Kaba Camara, Côte d'Ivoire)

Humanitarian Affairs at Vienna, despite its modest resources, had been able to give Member States the assistance they needed to guarantee their social progress.

57. Social progress, however, also demanded that the population as a whole be assured of a minimum of social well-being. According to the draft 1993 report on the world social situation (E/1992/17), the declining economic and social situation in a large number of developing countries in Africa and Latin America in particular had continued to worsen. Impoverishment had increased under the combined effects of the debt burden, the net transfer to the North of the meagre resources of countries in those regions, the dwindling financial flows to those countries and budgetary restructuring which was prejudicial to social services.

58. While it was true that economic development furthered social progress, it was equally true that, without a healthy and educated population, there could be no development. In preparing for the world summit for social development, it would have to be remembered that people were both the end and the means of development. Above all, attention would have to be given to ways of combating poverty and ensuring that everyone enjoyed a minimum standard of well-being. To that end, development agencies and the industrialized countries would have to be encouraged to increase their financial commitment; without a net inflow of external resources to the developing countries, it would be impossible to create the right social conditions for economic recovery.

59. As emphasized in document E/1922/80, the summit would ensure that the individual became the focus of development activities. In order to achieve that objective fully, poverty could be combated by investing in such social sectors as universal basic education, primary health care and preventive medicine, sanitation and drinking-water supply, and nutrition. Unemployed people could be encouraged to establish small units or cooperatives with a view to undertaking income-generating activities in such sectors as commerce, transportation, handicrafts, livestock-rearing, food crops and fishing. Local development banks, financed by international institutions, foundations and development agencies, would grant them short-term loans. Those simple measures would help to combat mounting unemployment, which was the main cause of poverty, to create solid bases for economic and social development and to enhance the social well-being of populations, which would then be better able to contribute effectively to sustainable development.

60. Mr. HAAKONSEN (Denmark), welcoming the Chilean initiative which had led to the adoption by the Economic and Social Council of a proposal to convene a world summit for social development in 1995, said that his Government had decided to offer Copenhagen as the venue for the summit and awaited with interest the General Assembly's decision on the matter. In extending that invitation, his Government had confirmed Denmark's commitment to social development as an important part of international cooperation and its

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(Mr. Haakonsen, Denmark)

intention to ensure that the summit was a significant event in the mobilization of all efforts to attain the ultimate objective of improving the quality of life.

61. In the opinion of his Government, the summit should devote particular attention to three areas. In the first area, the alleviation of poverty, particularly among disadvantaged groups such as women, children, youth, the elderly and disabled persons, the focus should be on practical contributions, such as national policies aimed at reducing the vulnerability of the poor to economic shocks, thereby promoting individual security; on the promotion of human development enabling individuals to make decisions about their own needs and ways of meeting them; on the link between poverty and the lack of power to choose; and on ways of furthering the contribution of the United Nations system to poverty alleviation. In the second area, productive employment, the focus should be on the need to promote human development through the provision of improved, demand-led education systems, including basic literacy, skills training and health care. Special consideration should be given to ways of enhancing the integration of disabled persons in the labour market and women's participation in economic activities, and to designing economic reform programmes which favoured the productive capacity of poor people and individual entrepreneurship, as well as the role which the United Nations system could play in that respect. In the third area, social cohesion, the focus should be on creating a social environment which, by taking into account access to information, democratic participation and the accountability of public administration, would enable individuals to share in the benefits of economic growth.

62. Mr. TISSOT (United Kingdom), speaking on agenda item 93 (b) on behalf of the 12 member States of the European Community, said that the rule of law and the effective administration of justice were at the heart of democratic society. Rising crime rates threatened the security, stability and democratic development of society. It was not merely the responsibility of Governments or the criminal justice system to fight that situation; the whole community should be involved. Crime prevention and control required flexible responses and international cooperation in the exchange of information.

63. In that context, the Twelve welcomed the Ministerial Meeting on the Creation of an Effective United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, held at Versailles from 21 to 23 November 1991, which had led to the adoption of General Assembly resolution 46/152 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/1 and to the establishment of the intergovernmental Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice which, at its first session held from 21 to 30 April 1992, had laid particular emphasis on practical steps towards the implementation of internationally agreed standards and on the prioritization of its objectives, as outlined in Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/22.

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(Mr. Tissot, United Kingdom)

64. The Twelve continued to monitor the implementation of existing norms and standards, the effectiveness of which should be enhanced by the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme. The programme should also tackle organized and economic crime through the provision of technical assistance in training for civilian policing and in drafting legislation. Its objectives should be prioritized to ensure that its limited resources were used to the greatest effect to achieve sustainable results. Its organizational capacity should also be strengthened. The Twelve attached particular importance to the fight against national and transnational crime, particularly organized crime; the fight against crime, particularly juvenile and urban crime; assistance to countries in the process of democratization; and the fight against corruption.

65. The Twelve believed that a sound system for the administration of justice was fundamental to the achievement of human rights and continued to stress the importance of implementing international commitments. They therefore welcomed the recent Helsinki follow-up meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the decision taken by the Conference to strengthen a regular cycle of implementation reviews.

66. European Community interior and justice ministers, meeting at London on 18 September 1992, had decided to set up within the existing structures of cooperation a working group made up of police and judicial experts to report to the ministers on the organization and structures of the Mafia and other international criminal organizations.

67. The Community and its member States were continuing to develop mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and police and customs cooperation. The Judicial Cooperation Working Group was working to improve mutual legal assistance in order to combat terrorism, drug trafficking, money laundering and organized crime. It was also taking practical steps to facilitate the provision of mutual legal assistance, conclude agreements on the transfer of criminal proceedings and the transfer of the enforcement of prison sentences and fines, simplify and improve extradition procedures between member States and study the scope provided in the criminal justice systems of member States for tackling the problem of terrorist funding.

68. The Community and its member States were in the forefront of international action to combat money laundering. The European Community's directives in that area set standards to be followed by financial institutions to guard against that practice (customer identification, record keeping, disclosure of suspicious or unusual transactions to the enforcement authorities, and lifting of customer confidentiality where disclosures were made). All the member States of the European Community were also members of the Financial Action Task Force, which had carried out useful work since its establishment in 1989 and had made progress in implementing the Task Force's 40 recommendations. It was essential that as many countries as possible should adopt those recommendations so that it would become increasingly difficult for criminals to infiltrate financial systems.

(Mr. Tissot, United Kingdom)

69. The European Community urged all States to ratify the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Trafffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, and States entitled to do so to ratify the 1990 Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime; it called on all States to cooperate fully under existing relevant international instruments and, where necessary, to create new bilateral or regional instruments on the basis of the model treaties developed in the United Nations and adopted by the General Assembly.

70. Mr. YBOKOU (Togo) said that, according to available statistics, one fifth of the world population lived in conditions of extreme poverty. As the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Development had noted in his introductory statement, the gap in standards of living between the richest and poorest was wider than it had been ten years previously. The developing countries, which accounted for 77 per cent of the world's population, produced and consumed only 17 per cent of world output. Poverty was one of the main characteristics of such countries. In contrast to Latin America, there had been no signs of economic recovery in Africa; 32 of the 47 least developed countries of the world were situated in Africa, and it was the only low-income region where the number of inhabitants living in poverty was liable to increase by the year 2000 if current trends continued. Africa was also the only region where the aggregate debt was equal to or greater than economic production.

71. In an attempt to re-establish overall economic balance and generate a level of growth that would make it possible to finance development, Togo had undertaken to implement three rigorous structural adjustment programmes; the result had been a decline in jobs in the public and private sectors, the closure of unprofitable State enterprises, the freezing of salaries, large-scale emigration from rural areas, increase in the school drop-out rate and in juvenile delinquency and increased marginalization of certain sectors of the population, particularly in the rural areas.

72. Since the efforts that were being made by developing countries to ensure the economic and social well-being of their populations were being jeopardized by the adverse effects of the international economic system, it was increasingly important for the social dimensions of development to be taken into account in all new plans at the national, regional and international levels. In that respect, his delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal that the United Nations should have an early-warning system to identify any threat to the security and well-being of the peoples, whether because of the debt burden, the risk of famine or the spread of disease. It also welcomed the Secretary-General's desire to see the establishment of a new partnership for development.

73. Africa in general, and Togo in particular, attached great importance to the improvement of the situation of the elderly, who were traditionally regarded as custodians of the cultural heritage and wisdom of their

(Mr. Ybokou, Togo)

countries. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's recommendation concerning the adoption by the General Assembly of global targets on ageing for the year 2001. The Secretariat of the United Nations and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs should strengthen their coordinating role with a view to achieving those global targets.

74. With regard to disabled persons, the Secretary-General's proposals should be considered very carefully, particularly those regarding the formulation of a system-wide plan of action to promote and coordinate policies and programmes to benefit the disabled.

75. His delegation welcomed the decision taken by the United Nations to celebrate in 1995 the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year, an occasion which should enable the international community to consider once again the disturbing situation of youth throughout the world, to evaluate the measures already taken in that respect and to formulate a realistic and pragmatic world youth programme of action with the year 2000 and beyond in view.

76. The international community must pay attention to the deplorable state of social development in the developing countries and, for the sake of the survival of mankind, must show more active solidarity and develop greater cooperation.

77. Mr. GARCIA (Chile) said that since the endorsement by the General Assembly, in resolution 42/125, of the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes, those principles, as noted by the Secretary-General in his report on the subject, had acquired increased significance in view of the fact that for several decades the world social situation had undergone far-reaching changes giving rise to new problems and new opportunities in the area of the family, social security, the role of women and awareness of the need to bring into the mainstream of society all marginalized groups such as the elderly, young people and the disabled. There had also been a change in the role of the State in relation to those problems, particularly through the interaction of economic and social policy and the interaction of the State and society at large, and also decentralization and modernization of the social sector.

78. Now that the political barriers dividing countries had been dismantled, it was time to confront the challenge posed by the social barriers that continued to set individuals apart. The dignity of the human being, like international peace and security, required social action within each country, as well as international relations, to be based on the criteria of justice and solidarity. It was thus entirely timely to make a discussion of such guiding principles part of the preparatory process for the world summit for social development, since those principles constituted an exercise in collective thinking about problems which, since they were common to all of mankind, required solutions acceptable to all and called, in particular, for an

(Mr. Garcia, Chile)

examination of the role which the United Nations, with its vast experience in the social field, could play in ensuring the adoption of the measures needed at regional and international levels.

79. In the two years following the restoration of democracy in Chile, the country had shown that growth, social justice and increased participation of its citizens could be mutually reinforcing in improving the quality of life.

80. First of all, with regard to economic growth, the gross national product would increase in 1992 by 8 per cent, which should make it possible to achieve an average annual growth rate of 5 to 6 per cent during the current Government's term of office. That progress had been achieved through internationalization of the Chilean economy. Chile had unilaterally reduced its customs tariffs to a single rate of 11 per cent and had made progress in concluding bilateral free-trade agreements with various South American countries. Chile's economic stability was due to a strengthening in the market economy in which the private sector was the driving-force for development while the Government saw to the protection of the common heritage. The inflation rate was less than half that which the Government in office had inherited from its predecessor. The budget balance and the external account were in surplus, and national savings were financing an increase in the rate of investment. The soundness of those macroeconomic balances had attracted a growing inflow of foreign investment.

81. While growth was a necessary condition for progress, it was not enough. The country must also settle its "social debt" to the thousands of impoverished Chileans who had seen their living conditions deteriorate during the initial phases of the implementation of an adjustment programme aimed at achieving specific economic objectives. That was primarily a problem of defining the relationship between macroeconomic success and its specific impact on everyday life. In Chile, more than a third of the population still lived in poverty. The market economy alone could not offer poor people the opportunity to share in the fruits of progress. Thus, if the quality of life of that segment of the population did not improve, social divisions, which were a source of conflict and instability, would persist.

82. Government intervention in the social field and solidarity among the people were essential in eliminating poverty and achieving the social cohesion without which no country nowadays could make progress. Moreover, not only was there a political responsibility and a moral duty to alleviate the poverty in which millions of Chileans lived - to do so would also be to invest in development.

83. It was for that reason that the current Government had adopted a tax reform which had increased human investment by more than 30 per cent, within the framework of programmes aimed at improving the quality of services in the fields of health, education, housing and social security and equality of access to those services, while increasing the opportunities for small and

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(Mr. Garcia, Chile)

medium-sized enterprises, the objective being to ensure that all Chileans would share in development. The Government had also undertaken a reform of the labour laws with the aim of introducing greater justice in relations between employers and workers. The decline in the unemployment rate, which was lower than 5 per cent and strengthening of vocational training programmes had brought about an increase in labour productivity and, consequently, in wages. The incomes of workers had thus increased annually by 5 per cent in real terms, and by more than that in the case of the poorest, since the minimum wage had increased twice as fast as the national average. All those changes had been made possible by the consensus reached by the Government and the employers' and trade union organizations with regard to the pace of development towards greater equality and greater social justice, a consensus which would ensure that the gains achieved in those fields would be lasting.

84. That progress had made it possible to distribute the fruits of progress more equally. It was also anticipated that the growth together with income redistribution would bring about a reduction of 20 to 25 per cent in the incidence of poverty during the first four years of the current Government's term of office, which would at the same time improve the quality of life of all Chileans. If the current trend continued, by the twenty-first century Chile would have conquered extreme poverty and markedly improved the prospects of low-income groups.

85. Chileans had also benefited from constitutional reforms which were decentralizing and dispersing power and enabling individuals and their organizations to participate in decision-making. For the first time in its history Chile had regional governments possessing resources of their own to tackle the priority objectives established by democratically elected regional councils. Similarly, social organizations could now participate in the administration of municipalities and authorize the allocation of a large part of public resources for the purposes of social development. The process of decentralization had strengthened society by making individuals responsible for their own development and collective progress.

86. Chile still had a long way to go in fulfilling its national responsibilities, which went well beyond the mandate of any particular Government and involved all the country's inhabitants. It was they who, in the final analysis, held the key to the future; it was their solidarity which would make it possible to give effect to the social and political agreements and to pursue integration with the rest of the world. The importance which Chile attached to the convening of a world summit for social development, which had already obtained the support of 120 other countries, was due to the opportunity which it would offer for focusing world attention on the human person and for forging the political and economic agreements needed to eliminate poverty, thus enabling all to share in the benefits of progress. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the Danish proposal to hold the summit at Copenhagen.

87. The CHAIRMAN invited the members of the Third Committee to demonstrate their commitment to the objectives of social development by considering the possibility of establishing a Third Committee fund for Somalia. The officers of the Committee, and two or three representatives of each regional group, might meet for that purpose.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly
FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION
Official Records

THIRD COMMITTEE
13th meeting
held on
Wednesday, 21 October 1992
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 13th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KRENKEL (Austria)

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* Items considered together.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 93: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(a) QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS AND THE FAMILY (continued) (A/47/214-E/1992/50, A/47/216-E/1992/43, A/47/339, 349, 369 and 415; A/C.3/47/4)

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AGENDA ITEM 91: ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued) (A/C.3/47/L.2, L.3, L.6 and L.8-10)

AGENDA ITEM 92: RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION (continued) (A/C.3/47/L.4, L.5 and L.7)

1. Mr. SANNER (Norway) expressed regret that at a time when humankind had more knowledge and resources than ever before and when hopes had been high for a new world and, after the fall of the Berlin Wall, a new Europe, problems were getting steadily worse: poverty and war, which created millions of refugees, environmental degradation, the widening gap between North and South, the resurgence of nationalism and the emergence of neo-nazism, and the exclusion and despair of young people. The current generation had no right to leave to its successors the economic and environmental problems that it had created, which could be best solved by cooperation.

2. Through the information explosion and better education, young people had become aware of environmental threats and the contrast between rich and poor, which had inspired in them the desire to act. However, that enthusiasm could give way to apathy if political action leading to concrete results failed to materialize.

3. Environmental degradation and global poverty were the two greatest challenges of contemporary life. Traditional models of economic growth were not sustainable and could not solve those problems. The answer was not to halt development but to base it on better utilization and systematic recycling of resources rather than on the plunder of the planet. Countries must not shirk their responsibilities in that regard, but international cooperation was also essential, which was why the United Nations needed to be strengthened.

4. The third world was in need of financial assistance (in particular, debt relief) and technology transfers. The target of 0.7 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) of wealthy countries was an absolute minimum for such assistance. At the same time, it was crucial to ensure that aid was not diverted, for example, to military uses. Economic aid alone was not enough, however: access to the markets of the developed countries was fundamental to

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(Mr. Sanner, Norway)

developing new productive activities in the third world, which was paying a high price for the industrialized nations' protectionist measures.

5. Education, the most valuable resource of nations and individuals, was also essential to development. A good educational system laid the foundation for independence and determined a country's level of development. As frequently noted by the World Health Organization, there was a positive correlation between girls' educational level and the general health of the population.

6. The ecological disaster threatening the Arctic ecysystems - the dumping of nuclear waste in the Barents and Kara Seas and in the Kola Peninsula lakes; the existence of ageing nuclear power stations in the former Soviet Union which were environmental time-bombs and air pollution caused by industrial plants - proved that environmental degradation could not be contained within national boundaries. While Norway intended to respond to that threat, it could not solve those problems on its own. There was an urgent need to carry out a detailed review of the situation and to launch clean-up and prevention efforts.

7. The cold war had given way to ethnic and national conflicts in the former Soviet Union and the Balkans, which had resulted in untold suffering and had forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee their homes. The international community, in particular countries at peace, should help those refugees to return to their communities, instead of shuttling them back and forth between countries. However, measures to aid refugees must not be exploited as a means of achieving ethnic cleansing. Education was one of the most effective ways of assisting refugees that went beyond ensuring a minimum of security and he suggested that host countries should offer refugees from a specific region educational programmes in which young people from rival groups would come together to study the principles of democracy, economics and administration so that, when hostilities ceased, they could contribute to the reconstruction of their countries and become leaders of the future.

8. It was often said that young people were the future, which seemed to imply that they were not important in the here and now. Yet young people were ready to participate and eager to shape their own future. They had played a central role in environmental movements, had actively suported democracy and freedom throughout the world and had mobilized the international community around those causes. Their enthusiasm and energy must not be underestimated in deference to the tradition and experience of the establishment. Young people could be mobilized through non-governmental organizations, which encouraged them to assume responsibilities. Putting young people on hold until they were old enough might destroy their desire to participate and to act. The States Members of the United Nations should be encouraged to make good use of young people and youth organizations.

9. Mrs. AL-HAMAMI (Yemen) said that there was a need to strengthen international, national and local action to solve the social problems under

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(Mrs. Al-Hamami, Yemen)

consideration by the Committee. The recent celebration by the General Assembly of the conclusion of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons demonstrated the importance of that category of citizens to the international community. She was also grateful to Canada for having hosted the International Conference of Ministers Responsible for the Status of Persons with Disabilities, held in Montreal on 8-9 October 1992. Those two historic events had provided an opportunity to reaffirm the major goals of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, namely, to ensure equal opportunities for the disabled and to integrate them fully in society. North-South cooperation was needed to ensure that those principles were applied at the same rate in all countries, regardless of their level of development.

10. The General Assembly debate on activities carried out under the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons had shown that there was general agreement on the goals of the World Programme of Action and on the need to ensure that disabled persons participated fully and on an equal footing in economic and social life. It appeared also that the principles of the World Programme of Action had been implemented more rapidly in the wealthy countries, which had been able to tackle the causes of disability, than in the developing countries, where endemic diseases and malnutrition were still wreaking havoc. In addition, because of economic and social conditions, the incidence of disabilities in developing and developed countries was not the same. Lastly, while the developing countries would benefit from the increased efforts they made for disabled persons, poverty and the overall economic situation remained major obstacles. Her country requested coordination of such action and an increase in international assistance to societies that made an effort to help the disabled.

11. The elderly were another category of citizens who deserved attention. The celebration of the tenth anniversary of the International Plan of Action on Ageing was a tribute to older people, to whom younger generations owed a great deal. She endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing (A/47/369) and emphasized the need to consider that Plan from the twofold standpoint of humanitarian values and development, which were complementary and equally valuable. Yemenite law was based on charia, which advocated compassion and kindness, and it held families responsible for the fate of elderly people.

12. While it was the elderly who had built today's world, the future depended on young people. As a developing country, Yemen ensured that its young people, who participated fully in the country's development, played a significant economic, social, political and cultural role. The wealth of States stemmed from their ability to develop their human resources, and people were both the means and the end of development. In that spirit, Yemen was designing programmes intended to enable families to participate in development in the context of a coherent society and was also involved in preparations for

(Mrs. Al-Hamami, Yemen)

the International Year of the Family (1994) and for the world summit for social development in 1995, two events which would give renewed impetus to the principles of the new international humanitarian order. In that regard, she thanked the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for his work in preparing for the summit.

13. The international community should not be interested in the fate of only certain groups of citizens: humanitarian responsibility encompassed all groups in all regions of the world. It was not only children, young people and the elderly who needed help, but all those who were suffering, particularly in Iraq and Somalia, where thousands of people were disabled and were dying for lack of food. Yemen was also sensitive to the sufferings of the oppressed peoples of Palestine and the occupied Territories, South Africa and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and hoped that everything possible would be done to help those innocent victims.

14. Mr. TERPSTRA (Netherlands), quoting from a mediaeval legal text in the Frisian language, said that in the Middle Ages, the welfare of the child had already been a major concern of lawmakers in his country. The importance of that issue was now recognized world wide, as many international charters and conventions showed, the most recent being the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted on 20 November 1989 by the United Nations General Assembly. It was not, however, sufficient to legislate; laws should also be respected, which, unfortunately, was not always the case. Governments were responsible for ensuring compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which applied to children up to the age of 18. That was an arbitrary age-limit. Young people aged between 15 and 25 had specific problems, a fact which had been recognized by the General Assembly at its fortieth session.

15. The Charter of young people's rights drawn up by the European Youth forum was an excellent gauge of the rights to which young people in the industrialized countries aspired. Their demands might appear trivial when one considered the problems faced by young people in many other countries of the world. Nonetheless, the Charter was an important document, partly because it had been drawn up by young people themselves and partly because it dealt with a number of issues which had been neglected or barely touched upon in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. For instance, it underlined the right of young people to live in a clean environment and to be adequately informed about the state of that environment, illustrating the concern which young people in Europe felt about the problem.

16. Unfortunately, the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held at Rio de Janeiro from 1 to 14 June 1992, had been mixed. While support for the principle of sustainable development had apparently grown, the main industrial countries had failed to reach agreement on issues such as biodiversity. Earlier in the year, youth delegates at the conference of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) had adopted a strong resolution. It would be irresponsible of the generation

(Mr. Terpstra, Netherlands)

now in power to mortgage the planet to the detriment of the next generation. The recommendations of the Brundtland Report were relevant in that connection: how could the rights of children and young people be exercised in an environment which was unfit to support life?

17. Both the Charter of young people's rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child emphasized the right to a good education. While sound education systems had been built up in many European countries, in some cases education budgets were not being cut. The areas most affected were precisely those which required extra attention, namely, the inner cities and rural areas, where many young people were becoming caught up in a vicious circle of crime. Basic educational skills were deteriorating, even though the Convention on the Rights of the Child had rightly stressed the need to transfer educational expertise.

18. In many developing countries, the quality of education was poor and access to it was far from universal. Inadequate educational infrastructures were not the only problem, however: child labour was also an important factor in limiting access to education in those countries. In a study on development cooperation and education in the 1990s, the Netherlands Government had underscored the importance of good primary schooling. In addition, 15- to 25-year olds who were forced to work to support their families missed opportunities for vocational training, a loss which compromised their own future and that of society. He appealed to the industrialized world, together with the developing countries, non-governmental organizations and UNESCO, to intensify their efforts to improve public education, especially in basic skills such as literacy in the developing countries.

19. In many countries, the armed forces were guilty of violating the rights of young people, such as their fundamental right to physical integrity. The Charter of young people's rights recognized the right to conscientious objection, and the Netherlands Government had been doing its best for a long time to get the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to recognize that right as a basic human right. It planned to submit a new resolution on the subject in 1993.

20. The Convention on the Rights of the Child prohibited the conscription into the armed forces of children under the age of 15. That age limit was too low, and he urged Member States to follow the example of the Netherlands and adopt a minimum age of 16 for conscription, and to amend article 38 of the Convention accordingly.

21. The army should not deprive conscripts of their fundamental rights of freedom of speech and association, and should certainly not subject them to any form of brutality. In countries such as the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark, conscripts enjoyed a considerable measure of freedom, without compromising either the effectiveness of the army or the security of the State. He suggested that the Secretary-General, benefiting from the prestige

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(Mr. Terpstra, Netherlands)

enjoyed by United Nations peace-keeping forces, should propose to troop-contributing countries a package of minimum rights for peace-keeping troops.

22. The situation of conscripts was even worse in war time. No method was shuned, including the enlistment of very young recruits. In his view, nothing justified sending children into battle, even when the cause was just. The United Nations could play only a secondary role in the matter. It was up to young people themselves to take the initiative and be selective in their approach to nationalism. It need not be harmful to identify with a nation sharing a common past, customs, norms and values. However, aggressive nationalism based on hatred was reprehensible. When young people were well informed, they were in a better position to resist the appeal of nationalist leaders who sought to use them as a political power base and as soldiers to achieve their goals. Recent history had shown the world what a powerful weapon a well-organized youth movement could be.

23. Mr. LAZARO (Peru) said that his delegation attached great importance to the convening of the world summit for social development and wished to suggest some principles by which preparations for the summit should be guided. First, the summit's essential task should be the elaboration of a strategy that was realistic, strongly political and action-oriented. The General Assembly at its present session should set up a preparatory committee mandated, inter alia, to draw up an agenda for the summit. It was desirable that during the first, political stage of its work the preparatory committee should be composed of permanent representatives to the United Nations. Later on, during the second or operational stage, a more technical contribution towards the preparation of the summit could be made by representatives of Heads of State. Further, it was desirable that the resolution adopted on the subject by the General Assembly should take account of the fact that the convergence of views existing at present with regard to the market economy and the strengthening of democracy meant that the United Nations could now tackle social issues in a pragmatic and realistic manner. The essential task today was to examine the political dimension of the social problems of the developing world. Another point that should be covered in preparing the summit was the need to ensure that its objectives and those of the specialized agencies were mutually reinforcing. It was also to be desired, in order to avoid academic or ideological debates, that each Government should submit a document describing its experience in connection with social programmes. Another essential point was the establishment of solid links between the World Bank and regional development banks. In that connection it might be possible to envisage an intergovernmental mechanism that would, in one form or another, ensure coordination between the World Bank and the regional development banks with particular emphasis on the social sector, especially in the developing countries. Such a mechanism would add a practical dimension to the political orientations formulated at the summit. Lastly, the preparatory committee should envisage adopting a decision to publish a well-documented annual paper on the social situation throughout the world.

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(Mr. Lazaro, Peru)

24. The social question had to be tackled with efficiency and realism, a task of enormous complexity but one that was by no means impossible to accomplish given the necessary creativity and flexibility on the part of the international community.

25. Mr. MAIER (Austria) said that the Austrian Government, desirous of putting into practice the lessons of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, had prepared a strategy for disabled persons with the object of achieving their full integration in social life, taking into consideration the social dimension of their disabilities. The strategy was based on a number of principles, the first being that measures should be taken to avoid disability. Disabled persons should be guaranteed a maximum of integration in social life, should enjoy greater autonomy and should be able to participate in decisions concerning them. They should also, whatever the causes of the disability, be guaranteed readily accessible and coordinated assistance adapted to their needs. All possibilities of rehabilitation should be tried, preference being given to out-patient treatment and small treatment units. Austria had participated in the work of the Open-Ended Ad Hoc Working Group to Elaborate Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Disabled Persons and had made an additional voluntary financial contribution on the occasion of the Group's third session, held in Vienna from 28 September to 2 October 1992.

26. People suffering from hearing impairment accounted for more than 10 per cent of the world's population. Their disability, which was not visible, often caused considerable isolation. The partly deaf, who formed one of the world's largest groups of handicapped people, often acted as a bridge between the sign-language minority and the hearing population. Many hard-of-hearing people, especially in the developing countries, could not afford hearing aids although aids could be supplied at relatively low cost.

27. The difficulties were not, however, insurmountable. Thus, an Austrian project entitled "RABBIT" to assist hearing-impaired persons in Slovenia had been successfully carried out. The Danish "DANIDA" foundation was doing efficient work in developing countries. The example could be quoted of the Austrian Hard of Hearing Association which had provided special training in hearing acoustics for a young woman from India. He wished to recommend that low-price hearing aids should, as a matter of urgency, be distributed to developing countries by a team, whose efforts he personally would be pleased to coordinate, composed of representatives of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the International Federation of the Hard of Hearing. In that connection it might be useful if the International Federation of the Hard of Hearing were granted consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

28. Mr. HUAN Yongan (China) said that a country's failure to solve its social problems not only threatened its own stability and progress but also undermined world peace and development. The international community should

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(Mr. Huan Yongan, China)

therefore address the issues of social development from the perspective of maintaining world peace and promoting the progress of mankind and should make social development one of the priorities of the United Nations.

29. The turbulent international environment and the widening gap between the North and the South caused by the irrational economic order had seriously hindered the economic and social development of the developing countries. It was therefore extremely important to uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, establish a new international economic order that was just, equitable and mutually beneficial, narrow the gap between the North and the South and create a sound developmental environment for all countries and, in particular, the developing countries.

30. The importance of social development issues and the urgency of tackling them had not been fully appreciated by the international community. China had always believed that the United Nations should not only endeavour to solve political problems but should also render more practical services aimed at ensuring economic and social development and improving the living conditions of people in all countries, especially developing ones. Progress achieved by the United Nations in the social development field was at present very slow. His delegation hoped that the relevant United Nations bodies would enhance their coordination and efficiency in order to meet the demands of the changing situation.

31. His Government supported the convening of a world summit on social development and thought that the summit should attach importance to issues facing all developing countries in the fields of population control, education, health care and social security. Equitable distribution of resources, decent living conditions for all members of society, protection of the interests of disadvantaged social groups and, still more, the problems of disabled and ageing persons should be placed high on the summit's agenda. International cooperation in the social development field should be based upon principles of pragmatism, equal exchanges, mutual benefit and respect for the right of peoples to choose the path to political, economic, social and cultural development best suited to their respective national conditions. Imparting a political or ideological content to the question of social development or, worse still, interfering in the internal affairs of other countries under the pretext of cooperation for social development could only delay the solution of social problems.

32. The special plenary meetings which the General Assembly had devoted at the present session to the problems of disabled persons and of ageing were ample proof of the international community's interest in and attention to those matters. His delegation believed that the proclamation of the International Day of Disabled Persons and the Proclamation on Ageing adopted at the plenary meetings would give an impetus to the advancement of the causes of the world's disabled and ageing populations. While the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons was drawing to a close, the Economic and Social

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(Mr. Huan Yongan, China)

Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) at its forty-eighth session held in Beijing earlier in the year had proclaimed the Asia-Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons for the period 1993-2002. His delegation endorsed the proposal of the Secretary-General that consideration should be given to the proclamation of similar regional decades of disabled persons.

33. His Government was extremely attentive to the problems of youth, women, children, the disabled and the aged and had adopted numerous legal acts to guarantee their rights. China was ready to exchange experience with other countries and in that way to participate in all endeavours in the field of social development.

34. Mrs. SWIFT PARRINO (United States of America) stressed the need for the United Nations to increase coordination, eliminate duplication and set priorities, so that the most important tasks and the needs of the most vulnerable received the highest priority. In that regard, her delegation commended the Secretary-General's report on global targets on ageing for the year 2001 (A/47/339), which was a step in that direction. Moreover, the World Summit for Social Development which the current General Assembly was preparing to convene, presented a unique opportunity to coordinate and focus social development activities throughout the United Nations system. The summit would achieve significant results only if it was well planned, held to a narrow focus and had adequate follow-up. Rather than underlining adversarial positions, attention must be focused on working to solve common problems. Her delegation complimented Ambassador Somavia on his efforts regarding the Summit and fully endorsed his proposals to incorporate already scheduled meetings into the preparatory process, not only for obvious physical reasons, but also because it would involve the entire Organization in the examination of social development issues.

35. Mr. SAHRAOUI (Algeria) said that the most acute problems confronting mankind today were above all social problems, and that in the countries of the South, in particular, the worsening of social conditions had become uncontrollable. In many instances, it was no longer even a question of survival. In the case of Africa, where the poverty of the world seemed to be concentrated, the situation was particularly tragic.

36. It was no longer necessary to prove the intrinsic relationship between economic growth and social development. It was well known that the disastrous economic, and therefore social, situation in which the majority of the countries of the South found themselves was largely determined by macroeconomic factors. Those factors were well known: price increases for imported manufactured goods, protectionism, artificial price cuts for raw materials, the ever-growing burden of the foreign debt and the fact that the countries of the North had stopped investing in the countries of the South. To that must be added the policies of structural adjustment that the majority of developing countries had adopted in order to adapt their countries to the laws of the free market, which had given rise to unemployment, and in turn led

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to crime, juvenile delinquency, the disintegration of social welfare and other socio-political problems. The social price of economic transition was therefore enormous.

37. Without denying the importance of national policies in promoting development and improving social conditions, the significance of action at the international level should not be minimized. Efforts to combat the impoverishment of three quarters of the world's population should rank among the first priorities of a new world order, along with the maintenance of peace, the promotion of democracy and the protection of the environment. In that respect, Algeria welcomed the fact that, in the draft for the 1993 report on the world social situation, the Secretary-General had adopted an approach integrating those three factors that stressed their independence and interaction.

38. It was vital to sit down at the negotiating table and discuss those problems together, frankly and realistically. The forthcoming World Summit for Social Development would offer such an opportunity. The Summit should not be a North-South confrontation but should tackle, as a priority, the most pressing problems confronting the populations of the southern hemisphere. In that regard, his delegation fully supported the Secretary-General's suggestions in document E/1992/80 regarding the topics that should be included in the agenda for the Summit, namely alleviation and reduction of poverty and the enhancement of the role of the United Nations in social development. Furthermore, it was time that the financial institutions of the United Nations system rethought the entire philosophy behind their economic reform programmes, so as to reduce to the greatest extent possible their negative social consequences on the developing countries: the cure should not kill the patient.

39. Mrs. SYAHRUDDIN (Indonesia) recalled that at the Tenth Summit Meeting, the Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement had rightly considered that in the post-cold war era, development and eradication of poverty had become the top priorities of the international community. The situation was particularly urgent in Africa. The Jakarta message of the Non-Aligned Movement recalled in fact that today, peace and stability were dependent on socio-economic as much as on political and military factors. That assessment was reiterated by President Soeharto in his address to the plenary meeting of the forty-seventh General Assembly and was recognized by the Secretary-General in "An Agenda for Peace".

40. Indonesia welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the Status and role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends (A/47/216). Indonesia, which had taken steps to improve cooperatives by providing education and training and made efforts to expand their business opportunities, had learned by experience of the contribution that cooperatives could make to national social and economic progress.

(Mrs. Syahruddin, Indonesia)

41. As to the question of disabled persons, her delegation welcomed the proclaiming of 3 December as International Day of Disabled Persons, an initiative that demonstrated the new awareness of the needs of those individuals on the part of the international community. She noted none the less, that if long-term sustainable results were to be attained for disabled people in developing countries, then the social and economic development needs of those countries had to be resolved. In the interim period, each country should resolve to improve the situation of their disabled persons within their limited capacity.

42. During the past 10 years, Indonesia had launched activities and programmes on behalf of disabled persons, particularly in such areas as employment, services and social security. Much remained to be done, however, and as Indonesia was aware of the need to ensure the equal participation of disabled persons in society, it would support the proclamation of a second United Nations decade of disabled persons. In that connection, her delegation would make available an appraisal of her country's achievements in the context of the Decade (1983-1992), which was ending.

43. Likewise, her delegation welcomed the adoption, in plenary meeting, of the Proclamation on Ageing. As the Secretary-General had indicated in his report (A/47/369), an ageing society had many implications and would require a number of adjustments in such areas as employment, health care, nutrition and social security. The draft framework for the 1993 Report on the World Social Situation had already drawn attention to the new challenges which social security systems would face. Her delegation supported efforts to enable the elderly to lead an active and productive life under secure circumstances. The strengthening of international collaboration in that area was encouraging, as shown by the decision to launch a global information campaign on ageing for 1992 and beyond, to be carried out by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the Department of Public Information. Likewise, her delegation welcomed the document concerning global targets on ageing for the year 2001 (A/47/339), which represented a practical strategy.

44. The Indonesian population consisted mostly of young people. Each year, nearly 2.4 million young people entered the workforce, and it was estimated that by the end of 1994, the Indonesian labour-market would comprise some 83.6 million people. The need to provide employment for those young people was one of the country's major concerns.

45. As the Secretary-General had stated in his report (A/47/349), the problem of youth unemployment and underemployment had worsened in recent years, largely as a result of economic stagnation in the developing countries, population growth, the debt burden and a generally poor global economy. The Secretary-General had also pointed to the lack of programmes for youth at the national level as a fundamental negative factor. Accordingly, it was necessary to prepare guidelines to assist Governments in formulating a

programme of action for youth at the national and local levels. Her delegation noted with satisfaction that the Secretariat would focus on that question during the period 1993-1994.

46. With regard to the question of crime, her delegation was encouraged by the emphasis which the General Assembly had placed on technical cooperation, assistance and coordination in that area. Criminal activities, particularly illicit drug trafficking and the illicit arms trade, posed a serious threat to all societies, but especially to emerging democracies and developing countries, which had limited resources. There was an urgent need for effective coordination of activities within the international community and for increased technical assistance to developing countries.

47. Her delegation was convinced that if democratic principles were to triumph, then people's basic needs must be satisfied. Narrowing the scope of social development would only increase ethnic and racial tensions and political instability. The world summit for social development would offer an opportunity to chart a course which would bring social justice and improved conditions for all.

AGENDA ITEM 91: ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued) (A/C.3/47/L.2, L.3, L.6, L.8, L.9 and L.10)

Draft decision A/C.3/47/L.2 and draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.3

48. Mr. OULD MOHAMED LEMINE (Mauritania) introduced draft decision A/C.3/47/L.2 and draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.3 on behalf of the Group of African States. With regard to draft decision A/C.3/47/L.2, he said that the single preambular paragraph recalled the relevant General Assembly resolutions and took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/20. In the operative paragraphs of the draft decision, the General Assembly expressed its thanks to all persons and entities which had enabled the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to make a considerable contribution to the cause of eliminating the policy of apartheid. The sponsors hoped that the draft decision would be adopted by consensus.

49. Turning to draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.3, he noted that it declared once again that all forms of racism and racial discrimination were among the most serious violations of human rights in the contemporary world and must be combated by all available means. The international community should continue to give the highest priority to programmes for combating racism, racial discrimination and apartheid and should intensify its efforts, during the latter part of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, to provide assistance and relief to the victims of those evils, especially in South Africa and in occupied territories and territories under alien domination. Moreover, all the parts of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade should be given equal attention in order to attain the objectives of

(Mr. Ould Mohamed Lemine, Mauritania)

the Second Decade. The international community should provide the Secretary-General with appropriate financial resources to allow for the implementation of the activities scheduled for the period 1992-1993 which had not yet been carried out. Governments should encourage further positive change in South Africa, based on the guidelines set out in the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa. With regard to the Trust Fund for the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the draft resolution appealed to all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Trust Fund. The Secretary-General was requested to prepare a draft programme of action for the third decade and to submit it to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session. The Commission on Human Rights was invited, at its forty-ninth session, to recommend activities to be undertaken during the third decade. Lastly, all Governments were urged to take all necessary measures to combat new forms of racism and discrimination based on culture, nationality, religion or language.

50. The sponsors proposed inserting paragraph 19 of the resolution adopted the previous year (General Assembly resolution 46/85) after paragraph 5, which would become new paragraph 6, and renumbering the following paragraphs accordingly. The paragraph would read as follows:

> "Requests the Secretary-General to continue to accord special attention to the situation of migrant workers and members of their families and to include regularly in his reports all information on such workers;"

51. The sponsors also proposed adding the phrase "once again" after the word "Considers" in paragraph 10. They hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.6

52. Mrs. FOSTIER (Belgium), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.6, said that Botswana, Rwanda and Senegal had joined the sponsors. Racism and racial discrimination were on the increase, sometimes in very extreme forms, just about everywhere in the world. By acceding to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, countries underscored the importance that they attached to its objectives. The States which had not yet become parties to the Convention were requested to ratify it or accede to it. The sponsors hoped that, as in the past, the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.8

53. Mr. TÜRK (Slovenia) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.8, which, in addition to the 26 countries already listed as sponsors, was also sponsored by Germany, Iceland, New Zealand and Pakistan. The format of the draft text was

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(Mr. Türk, Slovenia)

identical to that of previous resolutions on the same item, such as General Assembly resolution 46/83. Nevertheless, the text contained several new elements, particularly with regard to the financing of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The sponsors hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.9

54. Mr. RAVEN (United Kingdom), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.9, said that Afghanistan, Colombia, Estonia, Iceland, Japan, Lithuania and Poland had joined the sponsors. Through the draft resolution, which dealt with "ethnic cleansing", a term which should appear in quotation marks in the title and the body of the text, the international community was demonstrating its repulsion for everything related to discrimination and hate based on ethnic origin. Since the notion of racism and racial discrimination was very broad, the sponsors felt that the draft resolution under consideration, which did not refer to any situation in particular, would be a document which the Third Committee could usefully adopt. The members of the Committee would be informed of the results of the ongoing consultations aimed at improving the text, which the sponsors hoped would be adopted by consensus.

55. The CHAIRMAN said that the introduction of draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.10 was postponed to a subsequent meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 92: RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION (continued) (A/C.3/47/L.4, L.5 and L.7)

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.4

56. Mr. OULD MOHAMED LEMINE (Mauritania), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.4 on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the draft text under consideration reaffirmed the importance of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the main resolutions of the United Nations regarding the exercise of the right to self-determination by peoples under colonial and foreign domination. While welcoming Security Council resolutions 765 (1992) and 772 (1992), which provided the basis for the intervention of the Secretary-General in South Africa, the sponsors were deeply concerned about the current wave of violence in South Africa resulting from the continued existence of apartheid structures. The draft resolution demanded that the South African Government should repeal the security legislation in force and requested the Secretary-General to act speedily to implement Security Council resolution 772 (1992) in its entirety. In addition, the international community was urged to support the efforts to improve the situation in Angola, Mozambique, Western Sahara and the Comoros. The sponsors, who had demonstrated flexibility by replacing the expressions "Pretoria regime" and "apartheid regime" with the expression "South African Government" in order to take account of the changes that had occurred in South Africa, hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.5

57. Mr. ANSARI (Pakistan), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.5, said that Djibouti and Mauritania had joined the sponsors. The draft text under consideration deliberately reproduced the format of General Assembly resolution 46/88, adopted the previous year by consensus. It reaffirmed the importance of the observance of human rights, particularly, of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and expressed deep concern at the consequences of foreign military intervention and occupation that suppressed the right to self-determination of an increasing number of peoples. As a consequence of the continuation of such actions, millions of people were being uprooted from their homes as refugees and displaced persons. The States responsible for those actions were called upon to cease immediately their military intervention in and occupation of foreign countries and territories and all acts of repression, discrimination and exploitation against the peoples concerned. The sponsors hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.7

58. Mr. FERNANDEZ PALACIOS (Cuba), pointed out that Angola, Uganda and Zambia had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.7. As stressed in the eighth preambular paragraph, the use of mercenaries caused deep concern for all States because the activities of mercenaries were contrary to the fundamental principles of international law, such as non-interference in the internal affairs of States, territorial integrity and independence, and impeded the process of self-determination of peoples struggling against colonialism, racism and apartheid and all forms of foreign domination. Contrary to what one might have thought, the end of the cold war had not brought a halt to that practice. It appeared even to be linked today to other unlawful activities that were transnational in nature, such as terrorism and arms and drug trafficking.

59. The sponsors proposed the deletion of the phrase "and for the destabilization of the Governments of southern African States" from paragraph 4. They hoped that the draft text, which furthermore reproduced the provisions of previously adopted texts on the item, could be adopted without a vote.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly
FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION
Official Records

THIRD COMMITTEE
14th meeting
held on
Thursday, 22 October 1992
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 14th MEETING

Chairman:	Mr. KRENKEL	(Austria)
later:	Mr. DEKANY (Vice-Chairman)	(Hungary)
later:	Mr. KRENKEL (Chairman)	(Austria)

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AGENDA ITEM 93: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(a) QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS AND THE FAMILY

(b) CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 93: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (*continued*)

(a) QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS AND THE FAMILY (A/47/214-E/1992/50, A/47/216-E/1992/43, A/47/339, 349, 369 and 415; A/C.3/47/4)

(b) CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (A/47/379, 381, 399 and Corr.1, A/47/87, A/47/232-S/24025 and Corr.1, A/47/356-S/24367, A/47/80-S/23502, A/47/88-S/23563, A/47/312-S/24238, A/47/344 and 391)

1. Mrs. BANGOURA (Guinea) said that the social aspects of development played a decisive role in the internal and external security of nations. Unfortunately, the solutions devised by the international financial institutions, which were not matched with appropriate associated measures, had had the effect of impoverishing the peoples of Africa, which were feeling the full force of the world recession. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), while recognizing the worth of the solutions proposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), had argued for adjustment with a human face, which would assist the most vulnerable groups, especially the disabled and the elderly and rural dwellers, for they were the ones most affected by the austerity measures. Guinea had drawn up a social policy designed to advance and protect women, children, the elderly and the disabled by strengthening its national programmes through individual, community and cooperative projects.

2. Guinea supported the holding in 1995 of a world summit for social development, which would provide an opportunity to lay the foundations for balanced social development supported by international solidarity and co-management. The efforts made by the developing countries in the social field were in fact severely constrained by the unfair environment created by the international economic and financial system and had been impeded, particularly in Africa, by the recent democratization process, which was generating difficulties for social peace and development.

3. Her delegation endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (A/47/415). Guinea's fundamental law made it mandatory for the Government to see to the needs of disabled persons, and social tradition regarded them as full members of society. Her Government had undertaken to establish shelter, assistance and training organizations - still quite insufficient to meet the needs - to ensure the protection and social integration of the disabled. It was also planning to set up a national programme consisting of prevention, health education and vocational training measures, the establishment of a legal framework, income-generating activities and the creation of a national federation of disabled persons. About a dozen national non-governmental

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(Mrs. Bangoura, Guinea)

organizations were also carrying out specific activities. However, only through international solidarity could the necessary resources be found for a follow-up to the Decade. Her delegation therefore supported the establishment of a working group to set up a permanent collaboration machinery, in accordance with the recommendation made at the International Conference of Ministers responsible for the status of persons with disabilities, and with the proposal now made to continue with new terms of reference, the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons. Document A/47/339 contained alarming figures on ageing. In Guinea, however, the issue had not yet become a social development priority, for old people made up only 9.5 per cent of the total population. But urbanization, modernization and the emergence of the nuclear family were threatening the traditional family structures in which old people still enjoyed a privileged position. A protection policy had now been introduced, with the particular objective of preventing the loss of the knowledge and experience of old people.

4. Her Government was glad that 1994 had been proclaimed International Year of the Family. It had in fact established a national coordination committee for the Year. The family, which was recognized in Guinea's fundamental law as the basic unit of society but was being undermined by the weakening of Africa's traditional spirit of solidarity, had to cope all too often in the developing countries, and in Africa in particular, with poverty, illiteracy, lack of health and hygiene services, famine, and a shortage of decent housing.

5. Mrs. MBELLA NGOMBA (Cameroon) said that in order to achieve the full participation of all members of society in economic and social development, irrespective of their sex, age, race or physical and mental condition, States must give all their citizens access to the social, economic and political mechanisms which ensured sustainable development. Economic development and social progress, which had been severely affected by the current recession, depended in turn on respect for the rules of international competition, and therefore on the removal of trade barriers, and on genuine international cooperation, which was not just a question of charitable hand-outs.

6. Her delegation hoped that during the second decade of the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons efforts would be made, with the assistance of the organizations concerned, to create national mechanisms to implement programmes for the disabled. The standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons, which were to be submitted to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-third session, would play a significant role in that process. It was also to be hoped that the recent International Conference of Ministers responsible for the status of the persons with disabilities would result in a machinery for international and regional cooperation in research, training and rehabilitation, and that the Commission and the Economic and Social Council would submit suitable recommendations to the General Assembly. Her delegation agreed with the Secretary-General that the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons should be continued, as the "United Nations

(Mrs. Mbella Ngomba, Cameroon)

Fund on Disability" (A/47/214). It was also necessary to strengthen the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in Vienna, and in particular its Disabled Persons Unit.

7. Her delegation supported the global targets on ageing for the year 2001 and thought that the best means of applying them would be to establish global planning in parallel with concrete actions at the local level. Cameroon would devote its limited resources to the second method (establishment of a pension scheme, improved access to health care, and education of young people). Her delegation also supported the Secretary-General's request that the question of ageing should be given serious consideration at the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993, the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994, the world summit for social development in 1995, and the fourth international women's conference in 1995. It also endorsed the Secretary-General's proposals concerning the creation of a global network of senior volunteers for peace and development and on the mixed financing (regular budget and extrabudgetary resources) of programmes for the elderly. And it welcomed the General Assembly's decision to proclaim 1999 International Year for the Elderly.

8. International Youth Year had not produced the expected results, and the Cameroon delegation therefore supported the Secretary-General's proposals concerning inter-agency consultations, advisory services, involvement of regional commissions, exchange of information and international cooperation in the promotion of youth programmes. Cameroon would participate actively in the work of the ad hoc working group to review the Secretary-General's report on policies and programmes involving youth (A/47/349) and in the review of the progress achieved and obstacles encountered in the effort to attain the objectives of International Youth Year at the thirty-third session of the Commission for Social Development, which moreover was required to draw up a global youth programme of action towards the year 2000 (A/RES/45/103). The Commission might also use that occasion to prepare for the International Year of the Family in 1994, and her delegation recalled that the Secretariat wanted coordination machinery to be established at the national level. In view of its heavy workload, it would be desirable to review the Commission's schedule of meetings in order to allow time for effective discussion of the items on its agenda and for the formulation of appropriate recommendations.

9. In its capacity as Chairman of the Commission for Social Development, her delegation wished to recommend that the length of the Commission's sessions should be extended from 11 to 20 days every two years or that annual sessions of 11 days should be reinstituted to allow the Commission to function effectively. Now that the cold war was over, the Commission's recommendations should have greater bearing on General Assembly decisions. The financial problems of the Social Development Division of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs should also be resolved. Finally, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Health Organization, UNICEF and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) should increase

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(Mrs. Mbella Ngomba, Cameroon)

their participation in the implementation of United Nations social programmes, in coordination with the Centre.

10. Mr. Dekany (Hungary), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

11. Mr. Dal Ho CHUNG (Republic of Korea), speaking on agenda item 93 (a), said that the East-West divide had been bridged, and it was finally possible to focus more attention and resources on social development, with a view to achieving social justice for all. In that light, the United Nations must make important decisions regarding the world summit for social development in 1995, which would be on par with the Earth Summit in terms of its importance to humanity. The Secretary-General had provided direction as to the approach to be taken by the United Nations by asserting that all efforts should be oriented towards a concept of people-centred, equitable and sustainable development. The Republic of Korea would participate actively in the preparatory process for the summit, whether in the Commission for Social Development, regional forums or the preparatory committee that was to be established.

12. While his delegation was convinced that only global efforts would ensure future progress, it also believed that domestic policies focusing on the needs of society's most vulnerable group, including the disabled, the elderly and youth, must be adopted first. The Republic of Korea had done so during the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons. In 1988, the President's Committee for the Welfare of Disabled Persons had been established, and laws on the welfare and vocational promotion of persons with disabilities had been adopted in the early 1980s. The long-term strategy of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the draft standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons offered a promising basis on which to coordinate the efforts of individual Governments, while the continuation of the Voluntary Fund for the Decade under its new name the Voluntary Fund on Disability, could finance technical cooperation activities and help to ensure the success of global action.

13. The United Nations Principles for Older Persons, adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, and the global targets on ageing for the year 2001 constituted an encouraging framework within which to prepare for the "age of global ageing". Desiring to integrate ageing into its overall development strategy, the Republic of Korea had established the Welfare Policy Committee for the Aged, and its seventh five-year plan for economic and social development included measures for the elderly. One of its goals was to have all Korean citizens covered by a national pension plan by the year 2000.

14. On a global level, the momentum generated by the special plenary sessions of the General Assembly must continue into 1993, when the implementation of the Plan of Action would be reviewed by the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-third session. The global targets could also be reached through greater cooperation between the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian

(Mr. Dal Ho Chung, Republic of Korea)

Affairs and other government and non-governmental organizations. The tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year in 1995 would provide a timely opportunity for the Organization to find ways of improving the situation of youth in many countries where poverty, lack of education, drug abuse and delinquency were barriers to the realization of their potential. The preparatory work done by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs was encouraging in that regard, and strengthening the coordination of United Nations system activities should also afford greater protection to needy youth. Convinced that planning for youth must be undertaken in an integrated, multisectoral and coordinated manner, the Republic of Korea had designated 1993 as the "Year of Youth" and had established a Council for Youth Affairs under the auspices of the Prime Minister. The Republic of Korea, where filial piety and the family were cherished, looked forward to participating in the International Year of the Family in 1994 and welcomed the progress in Year preparations at the regional and international levels.

15. Turning to agenda item 93 (b), he welcomed the establishment of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to which his delegation, as a member of the Commission, would give its full support.

16. With regard to the Commission's work, his delegation hoped that the Statement of Principles would develop into an operational directive focusing on transnational crime. It had taken note with satisfaction of the priority themes adopted: transnational crime, organized crime, economic crime, including money laundering, and the role of criminal law in the protection of the social environment.

17. Although organized crime was not a severe problem in Korea, no nation was immune to that international problem, which was not limited to drug trafficking and money laundering. In that regard the recommendations adopted by the Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Strategies to Deal with Transnational Crime, held at Bratislava in May 1991, and the measures formulated by the International Seminar on Organized Crime, held at Suzdal in October 1991, could serve as guidelines for international efforts to confront organized crime. However, the prompt implementation of the Statement of Principles and Programme of Action of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme remained crucial. Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/22, which addressed the allocation of the necessary human and financial resources, should also be fully implemented so that the promising initiatives launched the previous year might bear fruit. The possibility of increasing the percentage of resources allocated to the Commission from the regular budget, currently 0.15 per cent, should be studied.

18. Mr. CHIARADIA (Argentina), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Rio Group, said it was imperative that members of the international community should unite and coordinate their efforts to raise living standards substantially in all countries, particularly in the developing countries. The world summit for social development, which the Economic and Social Council had

(Mr. Chiaradia, Argentina)

recommended that the General Assembly should convene at its forty-seventh session, should not serve as an opportunity for debate on subjects falling within the competence of States, nor should it confine itself to creating new mechanisms for the transfer of resources. Its purpose should be to reach a political consensus on social issues, to promote the concept that development should be an ongoing goal for individual countries and for the international community, to study financial mechanisms which could promote social development at the national and international levels, and to consider the possibility of additional financing. It should also analyse the relationship between social and economic problems - the proposals which the Secretary-General had submitted to the Economic and Social Council in document E/1991/80 were extremely useful in that regard - and study social development problems of each region. National territory should be taken as the frame of reference for social development and for development in general, for it was within that context that the people participated effectively in improving their standard of living and consequently, strengthened national economic development.

19. As indicated in Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/27, the General Assembly should draw up the agenda for the summit at its current session. The States members of the Rio Group were of the opinion that the issues examined should be addressed within the framework of international cooperation for development, and that alleviating poverty, reducing unemployment and strengthening social cohesion should be at the centre of its work. They also supported the Secretary-General's recommendation that the preparatory committee for the summit should include special representatives of heads of State or Government so that the latter could participate in the organization of the summit from its earliest stages.

20. In conclusion, the States members of the Rio Group reaffirmed that they would spare no effort in ensuring the success of the world summit for social development.

21. Mr. WOTAVA (Austria), speaking on agenda item 93 (b), said that the alarming dimensions of organized crime and transnational crime (drug trafficking, money laundering, arms trading and terrorism) had led the United Nations to reorganize the Secretariat unit dealing with crime prevention and criminal justice. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/152, the Economic and Social Council had replaced the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. A Statement of Principles and Programme of Action had been adopted at the November 1991 Ministerial Meeting held in Paris to draft a United Nations programme for crime prevention and criminal justice, which had been adopted by the General Assembly.

22. At its first session, held at Vienna from 21 to 30 April 1992, the new Commission had defined the role of the United Nations as the focal point for international cooperation. For the period 1992-1996, it would give priority

(Mr. Wotava, Austria)

to national and transnational crime, organized crime, economic crime, including money laundering, and the role of criminal law in the protection of the environment. Austria supported those priorities and believed that the new programme could benefit from close cooperation with other United Nations organs, such as the human rights advisory services in relation to administration of justice and the United Nations international Drug Control Programme for matters relating to organized and transnational crime. At the thirty-fifth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Austria had co-sponsored the proposal introduced by Italy to strengthen cooperation between the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Such cooperation would be fruitful not only because both bodies were based at the Vienna International Centre, but because the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, in his capacity as Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna and head of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, also had overall responsibility for the new United Nations programme on crime prevention and criminal justice.

23. Unfortunately, the new programme lacked staff and financial resources, which greatly limited its activities. As the Commission had noted at its first session, programme resources amounted to only 0.15 per cent of the overall United Nations budget and the programme had only 12 Professional staff members. The possibility of upgrading the Programme to division status should be considered, as recommended in General Assembly resolution 46/152.

24. It must be recognized, however, that the primary responsibility for combating all forms of organized and transnational crime lay with national Governments and authorities. The Austrian Government was attempting to strike those types of crime at the most vulnerable point, the financial element (money laundering). The expanded Declaration of Principles of Special Care issued by the Austrian banking system would continue to support efforts in that direction.

25. The Austrian Federal Ministry of Justice had recently circulated a draft law against money laundering, which prescribed punishment for concealing or disguising of the true nature of such money transactions, converting or transferring property or profiting from the proceeds from crime. In preparing that new legislation, Austria would consider carefully the practical experience gained in implementing the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. By early 1993, it expected to be in a position to put into force the sanctions envisaged against money laundering and, with their entry into force, should be able to ratify the 1988 Convention.

26. Mr. SLABY (Czechoslovakia) said that he would devote his remarks to the problems of the family, which his Government considered the basic social unit. The Government of Czechoslovakia attached major importance to the preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family which

would promote awareness among Governments, policy makers and the public and would stimulate local, national and international action.

27. During the past few years of profound political change, family policy had undergone a basic review and various legislative measures and programmes had been or were about to be adopted to provide protection and support to families, particularly the most vulnerable among them. The State's monopoly on assistance to families and the needy had ended in 1990 with the amendment of the social security law. A growing number of governmental and non-governmental organizations, including religious and charitable organizations, were currently providing a variety of social services, a new phenomenon in Czechoslovak society. In a number of cases, however, the State continued to provide subsidies.

28. Activities undertaken in Czechoslovakia for the International Year of the Family included improving the quality of life of the elderly and preparation of a report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which it had ratified. The status of children in society and respect for their rights was one of the highest priorities of the Czechoslovak Government. It was clear that the most vulnerable groups in society would suffer the most from economic change caused by the transition from a planned economy to a market economy. Thus, it was necessary to restructure the entire system of health care, social protection, social insurance and social security, to change the tax system and to create bodies dealing with unemployment issues. It could not be denied that domestic political developments and concerns about the country's future constitutional organization had slowed the successful implementation of the those tasks. He had been authorized to declare, however, that if the country was divided into two States, both new entities would consider themselves bound by the international obligations assumed by Czechoslovakia in all fields, including the social field.

29. In 1990, Czechoslovakia had informed the Secretary-General that it could make available facilities in Bratislava for United Nations meetings in the social field, including family issues, and that offer had been favourably received. Bratislava had the advantage of being situated only 60 km from the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs at Vienna. Several United Nations expert meetings had since been or would be held in Bratislava, including a conference of European ministers responsible for social affairs scheduled for June 1993.

30. The Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of Slovakia had stated recently in the plenary Assembly that the country had decided to seek affiliation of the International Centre for Family Studies in Bratislava with the United Nations, thus following the practice adopted for the regional institutes in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and the International Institute on Ageing in Malta. The Centre would become an international, non-governmental, non-profit and tax-exempt organization. It

(Mr. Slaby, Czechoslovakia)

would be financed through voluntary contributions and would be part of a sustained long-term effort initiated by the International Year of the Family. Its functions would include conducting research on the family and family-related issues, providing an extensive training programme, providing a setting for interdisciplinary thought, research and action programmes, collecting and disseminating knowledge and information on existing family programmes, acting as a clearing-house for information and research, synthesizing that information and finally, offering advisory services to Governments. The Government of Czechoslovakia would submit a formal proposal at the next session of the Commission on Social Development, the preparatory body for the International Year of the Family, and hoped that it would be favourably received.

31. Convinced that mutual consultation on the social situation must be encouraged not only at the regional level but also on a worldwide scale, his delegation had supported and become a co-sponsor of Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/27 on the convening of a world summit for social development. Before convening the summit, however, consensus must be reached on its agenda, and duplication must be avoided. The summit should concentrate on identifying priorities and improving the capacity of the United Nations to deliver its social programmes.

32. Mr. JENSEN (Denmark), speaking on the subject of young people, read one of the 1,200 open letters addressed by Danish schoolchildren to the world, and stressed the importance of letting young people make their opinions known, since children always suffered the most in crises. That was true not only of the world's poorest countries, since, even in industrialized countries, children were often left behind in the competition for education and jobs. In the big cities, many abandoned children lived in the streets and were only removed from sight during major events like the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the 1992 Olympic Games. Under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in addition to their fundamental human rights, all children enjoyed the rights appropriate to their condition.

33. Environmental protection was one of the major problems of the current age, necessitating local, regional and global efforts and cooperation. It was not enough to adopt new agreements and conventions; the world must radically change its habits and consumption patterns, which could only be done through cooperation, economic compensation, debt remission and the exchange of technologies between rich and poor countries in order to ensure sound development.

34. Youth organizations all over the world had put the environment at the top of their agenda and the rising generation was willing to cut back on consumption in order to improve the environment. Sixty per cent of the world's population was under 30, yet young people had virtually no say at the Rio Conference. They had had great hopes of the Conference, but its results had fallen far short of their expectations. Both the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity had

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been hobbled by the short-term economic interests of certain countries. Furthermore, no firm commitment had been given to provide the necessary funding. The Conference had resulted in promises of a mere $2-2.5 billion, an amount which would do nothing to change the imbalance between rich and poor countries and was very far from the $125 billion a year required for the financing of Agenda 21. Without financial resources, sustainability and the preservation of nature would be an illusion. It was therefore vital that the follow-up to the Conference, a process in which young people were eager to participate, should receive the necessary financial support.

35. In the United Nations, young people saw a force capable of ensuring peace, equality among rich and poor countries and solutions to the world's environmental problems. The support and attention received worldwide by the Organization must be put to good use, making it stronger and more dynamic. It must ensure that its decision-making process was based on broader and more active participation, an essential prerequisite of democracy and development. It should therefore involve public organizations more widely in its work and reassess its ties with non-governmental organizations, which currently were performing no real function. At the same time, it should ensure that children throughout the world, from primary school onwards, were taught the importance of global cooperation.

36. As a youth delegate, he regretted that so few countries had included young people in their delegations participating in the work of the United Nations and that no one sought the views and suggestions of young people, although they had both the courage and the necessary ability to make an active contribution to world development.

37. Mr. MISSINHOUN (Benin) said that the idea of development should be reviewed and expanded, since development involved not only the qualitative and lasting improvement of an economy and its operation, but also the establishment of decent living conditions, guaranteeing social justice, respect for human rights and the satisfaction of fundamental human needs. Consequently, development also necessitated the coordinated activities of all the public figures concerned and the actions of governmental and non-governmental organizations and of the United Nations system should all be geared towards development.

38. The idea of convening a world summit for social development had won considerable support, demonstrating the willingness of the international community to accept its responsibilities in the social sphere during the current, post-cold war period, which was so full of possibilities. It was therefore an appropriate time to take stock of the constituent elements of those development plans and national budgets already considered as priorities and to submit them for the consideration of Heads of State and Government, who should make a political declaration undertaking to ensure their implementation. The aims of the summit should be to reaffirm the obligation of the international community under the Charter of the United Nations,

(Mr. Missinhoun, Benin)

namely, "to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom"; to uphold the notion of the right to development which still had not been universally recognized but which had been clearly articulated in the historic Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; to promote the idea that the strengthening of peace and security was only possible if social needs were satisfactorily met; to encourage public and private initiatives in the social sphere, and to defend the idea that development and international cooperation must be human-centred.

39. With regard to the agenda for the summit, his delegation believed that it should cover a limited number of issues which most countries considered as priorities, namely, the situation of the least developed countries, the situation of the most disadvantaged sectors and the most vulnerable population groups and the strengthening of the role of the United Nations system in the field of social development. The summit should, in addition, result in the drafting of an integrated plan of action aimed specifically at guiding and coordinating the social projects and programmes under way at the national and international levels.

40. With regard to disabled persons, Benin had participated in the implementation of the World Programme of Action within the framework of the United Nations Decade for Disabled Persons by organizing two seminars on heightening public awareness of the problems of the disabled; by establishing a centre for the blind and visually impaired; and by opening two special schools one for deaf children and one for the mentally retarded. In addition, a community-based rehabilitation programme was shortly to be launched; one of its main objectives was to promote a network of integrated and intersectoral programmes designed to ensure basic education and vocational training and to provide health care for disabled persons. His delegation would welcome attention by the world summit for social development to problems concerning the disabled and the ageing of the world's population.

41. Mr. Krenkel (Austria) resumed the Chair.

42. Mrs. SHERMAN-PETER (Bahamas), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) which were Members of the United Nations, said that the Organization was more determined than ever to discharge its obligations under the Charter, in particular "to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom". In the field of social development, the Organization was primarily concerned with fostering conditions conducive to the integration of different social groups in the development process. The large number of States which had participated in the plenary meetings marking the end of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons and the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Ageing demonstrated the positive impact which those initiatives had had on attitudes to the social groups concerned.

(Mrs. Sherman-Peter, Bahamas)

43. The participation of the CARICOM countries in the plenary meetings to mark the end of the Decade and in the International Conference of Ministers Responsible for the Status of Persons with Disabilities, held at Montreal on 8 and 9 October 1992, demonstrated their commitment to the need to provide disabled persons with the means of participating in development. The efforts made by those countries with a view to preventing disability and ensuring rehabilitation and equal opportunities for the disabled had borne fruit. They were ready to take practical measures towards achieving "a society for all by the year 2010" and to take into account the framework in which the United Nations Fund on Disability would be established by the end of 1993, namely, the World Programme of Action, the long-term strategy and the standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons. The Caribbean Community similarly supported the proclamation of an International Day of Disabled Persons and was in favour of maintaining, under a new name and with a new mandate, the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons.

44. Although the population of the CARICOM countries remained young, the developing countries still needed to plan for the inevitable ageing of that population. The CARICOM States welcomed the considerable advances made possible by the United Nations initiatives in that field, including the proclamation of the International Day for the Elderly in October each year. In formulating and implementing their policies on ageing, they would study the progress of the global information campaign for the action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond, which the General Assembly had decided to launch to improve the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing for a second decade (1992-2001).

45. In his report on policies and programmes involving youth (A/47/349), the Secretary-General had noted that, since 1985, which had been proclaimed International Youth Year, the situation of youth had failed to improve sufficiently and that development plans did not yet take adequately into account the needs and aspirations of a group which nevertheless comprised a significant majority of the population in most developing countries, including the Caribbean Community. While recognizing the considerable socio-economic obstacles which prevented them from attaining the objectives of the International Youth Year, the States members of CARICOM were endeavouring to increase the efficacy of their youth programmes, implementation of which was coordinated by ministries having specific responsibility in that area. The aim was to involve young people in planning and decision-making on all issues that affected them. Thus, Caribbean youth were participating actively in the Commonwealth Youth Programme, coordinated by the Caribbean Centre in Guyana, which had made it possible to identify issues of major concern to youth, including job creation, health, drug and alcohol abuse, teenage pregnancy, crime, the environment, literacy and the integration of young people in development. Caribbean youth had also participated in organizing exchange and study tours, such as the gathering of young people from 17 countries to celebrate Caribbean Youth Day on 30 September, during which they had

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established a Youth Forum and participated in a Caribbean regional drug conference.

46. The Caribbean States should follow that example in order to identify obstacles to positive action in the field of youth and should make a political commitment to promoting strategies at the national, regional and international levels to enhance the implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth. The States members of CARICOM intended to use the period leading up to the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year to follow closely, such activities as the drafting of a world youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond.

47. With regard to the International Year of the Family, the CARICOM countries would take into account the appeal by the coordinator of Year activities for the establishment of national coordinating committees and the formulation of national plans for those activities, pending consideration of the matter by the General Assembly in 1993. Those States looked forward to the holding of a regional conference for Latin America and the Caribbean which the Government of Colombia had offered to host, that should lead to the setting of regional priorities for the International Year.

48. Although crime affected both developed and developing countries, it aggravated the crisis many developing countries were experiencing, since it constituted a serious impediment to development. The United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme should therefore assist member States in setting guidelines for combating crime at the national, regional and international levels and help them to enhance the effectiveness of their criminal justice systems. In that connection, the CARICOM countries welcomed the Statement of Principles and Programme of Action adopted at the Ministerial Meeting on the Creation of an Effective United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, held at Versailles in November 1991.

49. At its first session, in April 1992, the newly created Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the chief United Nations body in that field, had identified key aspects of the crime problem on which the United Nations programme should focus, based on the Statement of Principles and Programme of Action adopted at Versailles. The CARICOM countries agreed with the priority given to operational activities, particularly training, information collection and dissemination, including the publication of operational manuals, and joint strategies by countries to deal with crime problems of mutual concern. They shared the Commission's view that a new subprogramme on operational activities should be added to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. They were also pleased that crime in urban areas and juvenile criminality were among the Commission's priorities for the period 1992-1996. The multidisciplinary nature of the fight against crime demanded cooperation with other United Nations bodies, in particular the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. Like the ministers who had met at Versailles, the CARICOM countries recognized

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the importance of the United Nations quinquennial congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, which, as consultative bodies for the United Nations programme, were an integral part of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice system. The United Nations institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders also had an important role to play in training, research and information clearing-house activities. However, resource difficulties were hampering their activities in the developing countries. In particular, they had prevented the Latin American institute from participating in the first session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Consequently, the contributions that the institutes could make to policy development and implementation should be better integrated into the overall crime prevention programme in the developing world.

50. The Commission sought to respond to the menace which organized crime posed to the internal and external security of States by giving priority to the development and maintenance of criminal justice systems capable of dismantling organized crime networks operating across national borders. As small island developing States, the CARICOM countries could ill afford to let organized crime interfere in the attainment of their national priorities; they therefore supported the development of new sanctions against business enterprises that worked for organized crime as well as measures to increase public awareness and encourage victims to prosecute the representatives of those organizations. They had taken steps to counteract money laundering by organizations which had infiltrated the international banking system. In the absence of an international criminal jurisdiction, it was necessary to resort to the criminal justice systems of Member States to counteract the operations of organized crime at the international level. CARICOM did not regard the principle of national sovereignty as incompatible with the need to foster international cooperation in the fight against organized crime. The CARICOM States also felt that the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme would be able to set international rules and standards to counter organized crime only if it was proactive rather than reactive. In that regard, due consideration should be given to the recommendation to upgrade the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs to a division and provide it with the necessary resources to carry out its mandate.

51. The States members of CARICOM supported the decision to convene a world summit for social development at the level of heads of State or Government in early 1995 because they believed that it would help to improve the lives of millions of people who had to pay the intolerable social costs associated with poverty, debt and structural adjustment. Unless the rising expectations brought by the end of the cold war were realized, those ills could generate social unrest, political instability, internal and even international conflict. The summit could therefore afford an opportunity for ensuring that dramatic developments in the field of political security were matched by progress in the field of social development. The Summit should also make it

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possible to abandon the notion that social expenditure was "consumption" which diverted resources from economic growth, when it was in fact part of the total development process. The summit agenda should be concise and practical and based on the three areas identified by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General: poverty, employment and social cohesion. The summit should not merely be a forum for discussing particular social sectors or making them subsidiary to economic development plans but should focus on them in the context of creating total development systems and proposing realistic means by which social development objectives could be accomplished. The summit's goals should also be guiding principles that could be adapted to the specific circumstances of States at radically different levels of development.

52. With regard to the strategies for sustainable development which the developing countries were invited to devise, the CARICOM States considered that the United Nations should focus on the potential role of cooperatives in that context. The development of credit cooperatives, for example, held out good prospects for furthering national and international efforts for the advancement of women. The organization of cooperatives had made an important contribution to individual and societal development in the Caribbean Community. The United Nations could support the efforts of those countries to draw attention to the role of cooperatives by supporting the International Day of Cooperatives currently being observed by the global cooperative movement under the auspices of the International Cooperative Alliance.

53. The social development sector continued to be plagued by the question of resources, and contributions to the relevant voluntary funds must be increased if existing programmes were to improve the situation of the disabled, youth and the elderly in the developing countries. Above all, efforts must be made to ensure that the policies could be implemented by providing the United Nations central body in that field, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, with the human and financial resources needed to discharge its ever-expanding mandates.

54. Mr. SERGIWA (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the work done by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1992 bore witness to the deterioration of social conditions in the developing countries and in the African and least developed countries in particular. The explanation for that deterioration lay essentially in those countries' inability to gain access to modern technology and industrialized country markets, their external debt burden, the worsening of their terms of trade, the inadequacy of the official development assistance granted to them and the fact that they channelled more resources to the developed countries than they received from them. The consequences of that deterioration, particularly damaging to social development in the developing countries, were reflected, inter alia, in a considerable increase in the number of the poor and the unemployed, a reduction in the resources allocated for education and health, and the declining living conditions of the population as a whole, and of children, women and the elderly in particular. It was therefore essential for the

(Mr. Sergiwa, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

members of the international community to work more closely together to promote growth and development in all countries and especially in the developing countries.

55. His delegation favoured the convening of a world summit for social development on the grounds that it would promote efforts in the social field at the national, regional and international levels. The summit must be well prepared so that efforts to eliminate poverty, improve living conditions and education and reduce drug abuse could be strengthened. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's proposal in document E/1992/80 that the summit's agenda should be precisely and concisely formulated and paid a tribute to the work of the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Mr. Juan Somavia, who was to hold consultations with representatives of Member States on summit preparations.

56. With regard to the International Year of the Family, to be celebrated in 1994, his delegation commended the efforts of the Social Committee of the Economic and Social Council, which was responsible for preparations for the Year, but believed that additional planning and coordinating machinery should be established. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had set up a national committee for preparations for the Year, under the People's Committee for Social Welfare, consisting of representatives of all the social sectors concerned. That body had drawn up a general programme of preparations for the Year which called for cultural and information programmes, the organization of conferences and meetings and the promulgation of new family legislation. The Committee also planned to submit a proposal for convening a conference on the family in 1997 with a view to the adoption of an international charter on the rights of the family.

57. With regard to youth, his delegation considered that the tenth anniversary of International Youth Year in 1995 would provide an opportunity for considering the problems of youth and guaranteeing their right to education, health and participation in development.

58. The adoption of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, of which the tenth anniversary was being celebrated in 1992, testified to the international community's growing interest in the elderly and the effort that was being made to give them greater autonomy in managing their affairs. His delegation believed that the implementation of the Plan of Action should be extended to the year 2002 to promote more active participation by the elderly in social development. In his country, traditional religious and social values of respect for the elderly meant that most older people encountered no special problems. Nevertheless, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had established institutions that looked after elderly persons who had no family or could not receive adequate care within their families.

59. On the basis of its humanitarian principles, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was doing everything in its power to improve living conditions for youth, the

(Mr. Sergiwa, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

disabled and the elderly. However, its efforts were handicapped by the unfair sanctions imposed on it under Security Council resolution 748 (1992). The result of those sanctions had been to reduce the resources allocated for social services, seriously affecting the most vulnerable groups: youth, the disabled and the elderly. The United Nations, whose mandate included helping those social groups, should take the necessary steps to remedy that situation. His delegation wished to point out that the elderly and disabled persons who were to have participated in the work of the General Assembly on the International Plan of Action on Ageing during the previous week had been unable to travel to New York because of the embargo which, by forcing them to fly from Tunisia or Egypt, caused them undue fatigue.

60. In conclusion, his delegation looked forward to the Secretary-General's report on the world social situation and believed that he should pay special attention to analysing the deterioration of the social situation in the developing and least developed countries.

61. MR. MOTOC (Romania), speaking on agenda item 93 (b), said that the establishment of a new world order based on genuine peace and security was unthinkable without a solid means of countering the threat that new criminal activities posed to domestic and international stability while at the same time fully respecting human rights and democratic principles. In that regard, it was entirely logical to deal with problems linked to crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of social development, since crime could not be separated from its social origins. Moreover, studying those matters at the international level was wholly justified at a time when crime was growing more multifaceted and widespread throughout the world. In his report on strengthening international cooperation in combating organized crime (A/47/381), the Secretary-General had accurately grasped the extent of the problem when he said that, recently, the downfall of one-party systems in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union had opened up extensive possibilities to both domestic and "imported" organized crime. Organized criminality had been quick to take advantage of the hiatus between the dismantling of pre-existing structures and their replacement with effective structures reflecting the new political, social and economic realities.

62. His delegation believed that the Ministerial Meeting held at Versailles in 1991 on the creation of an effective crime prevention programme and the rationalization of the quinquennial Congresses had made it possible, through its Statement of Principles and Programme of Action, to strengthen the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, as well as the intergovernmental commission established recently to address transboundary crime in particular.

63. His delegation welcomed efforts by the United Nations to develop instruments, guidelines, rules, codes of conduct and model treaties with a view to helping countries improve their own systems of criminal justice. Those measures constituted a sound means of strengthening international

(Mr. Motoc, Romania)

cooperation and harmonizing the different regulations and practices in that area. The Organization should be supported in its endeavours to accelerate the implementation of internationally agreed standards.

64. After the collapse of the Communist regime, Romania, like the other Member States from Central and Eastern Europe, had experienced an upsurge in domestic crime and was forced to cope with the activities of transfrontier criminal networks and new forms of crime. There was, for example, a flourishing trade in stolen vehicles, a proliferation of thefts of national cultural treasures and the illicit storing and disposal of toxic wastes.

65. In the current improved conditions it was in fact easier to combat those disturbing phenomena. For its part, Romania had undertaken major legislative reforms to harmonize its constitutional, penal and penitentiary norms with the most advanced international, regional and national practices. The primary aim had been to guarantee the fundamental human rights of victims and of persons suspected of criminal conduct. Romania had concluded a series of regional and bilateral agreements on assistance in various areas of crime prevention. It was determined to abide scrupulously by the commitments under the Helsinki Declaration, reaffirmed at the latest meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The problems which Romania encountered in elaborating effective strategies against organized crime, while consolidating human rights safeguards in the administration of justice, understandably strengthened its support for an expanded role of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme. It was interesting to note that the first of the five seminars planned by the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, focusing on the link between law enforcement and respect for human rights, had been organized at Bucharest, where it had begun on 19 October. The involvement of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the United Nations, UNICEF and UNDP, as well as leading experts from several Western European countries, and the range of the issues which it addressed augured well for the success of the seminar. Romania aimed to speed up its accession to the European criminal justice instruments. It was also participating in the Council of Europe programmes for juridical cooperation, both on a bilateral basis and in the framework of joint activities with other Central and Eastern European countries. Accordingly, numerous seminars and meetings had been held at Bucharest on such diverse issues as the organization of the judicial system, criminal legislation and juvenile deliquency.

66. Mrs. WADIBIA-ANYANWU (Nigeria), speaking on agenda item 93 (a), said that, as the world hailed the end of the cold war, it was understandable that greater attention than ever before was being focused on the emerging democracies. Her delegation looked forward to a time when the international community would succeed in reducing the widening gap between the rich and the poor in the societies of the third world. The world social situation was an issue of great importance, particularly since economic progress and development could not be built on weak social foundations. The 1995 world summit for social development, with regard to which her delegation had already

(Mrs. Wadibia-Anyanwu, Nigeria)

conveyed its views to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, would only succeed if the developed and developing countries not only addressed the underlying causes of social tension in the developing world but made genuine and realistic commitments that could be monitored in the context of the recommendations contained in the United Nations agenda for the development of Africa in the 1990s. Her delegation also hoped that the summit would encourage the developed countries to make genuine concerted efforts to help alleviate the natural and man-made constraints to the development of the societies of the third world.

67. The celebration in 1994 of the International Year of the Family would only be meaningful if the scourge of poverty, disease and illiteracy was eliminated. In that regard, tribute must be paid to the Executive Director of UNICEF, who continued to stress the linkage between child-related concerns, sustainable development and the environment. Her delegation urged him to intensify the primary environmental care initiatives. Nigeria had formed a national committee for the International Year of the Family, which would enable all Nigerians, including the disabled, to participate in the implementation of the relevant programmes. The preservation of family values had particular importance in Nigeria's multi-ethnic society, where elders were considered to be custodians of the cultural heritage. The Nigerian Government was therefore concerned to formulate policies designed to meet their needs.

68. As a follow-up to the 1990 World Summit for Children, the Organization of African Unity had proclaimed 16 June the Day of the African Child. In addition, an international conference on assistance to African children was to be held at Dakar, Senegal, from 25 to 27 November 1992. She hoped that the resulting programme of action would lead to the attainment of the primary objectives for the survival, protection and development of the African child, which were among her Government's main concerns.

69. With regard to the three reports submitted by the Secretary-General on crime prevention and the combating of delinquency (A/47/379, A/47/381 and A/47/399), organized transnational crime, which formed their main topic, could only be fought at the international level. In that respect, the decision taken by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session to fund the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders from the regular budget would enhance the Institute's crime prevention role at the regional level. As the Secretary-General noted in his report (A/47/379), the Institute had conducted a series of training seminars for professionals from various justice-related sectors.

70. The CHAIRMAN said that, following the first meeting of the fund-raising committee for Somalia, held the previous day, he wished to inform Committee members of the countries which had agreed to serve as regional fund-raising coordinators, namely: Indonesia and Pakistan, for the group of Asian States; The Bahamas, for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; Spain and the United Kingdom, for the European Community; Algeria, Cameroon, Lesotho,

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(The Chairman)

Nigeria and Sierra Leone, for the Group of African States; Sweden, for the Nordic countries; and Bulgaria, Hungary and the Russian Federation, for the Group of Eastern European States.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly
FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION
Official Records

THIRD COMMITTEE
15th meeting
held on
Thursday, 22 October 1992
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 15th MEETING

Chairman:	Mr. KRENKEL	(Austria)
later:	Mr. DEKANY (Vice-Chairman)	(Hungary)
later:	Mr. KRENKEL (Chairman)	(Austria)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 93: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(a) QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS AND THE FAMILY (continued) (A/47/214-E/1992/50, A/47/216-E/1992/43, A/47/339, 349, 369, and 415; A/C.3/47/4)

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1. Mr. OUATTARA (Mali) said that his country welcomed the increased attention which the United Nations was devoting to the world social situation, with its focus on people.

2. With regard to the question of ageing, Malian society accorded great respect to the elderly, since their precious knowledge made them living libraries in a society where the oral tradition remained the principal means of transmitting knowledge. Two important events had marked a new approach to the question of ageing in his country. First, a national seminar on the elderly had issued a final document, based on the International Plan of Action on Ageing, proposing a series of measures in the areas of the family, social protection, health, nutrition, housing, the environment, culture, education, income and employment. Second, a new ministry had just been established with the responsibility, inter alia, of elaborating a national strategy for the elderly.

3. Mali had established a national mechanism for the elderly, but its initiatives would remain limited without international support. His Government endorsed the global targets on ageing for the next decade, and had co-sponsored General Assembly resolution 46/91. Mali was determined to build a society where all healthy older persons could fully realize their potential.

4. Mr. MAZLAN (Malaysia) said that the root cause of social problems was the lack of resources to improve conditions caused by lack of economic development. Widespread poverty, especially in developing countries, was the dominant problem confronting efforts to improve social development, and its prevalence made the fulfilment of democracy difficult, affecting the stability of the international community. On the other hand, some nations had embarked on economic development programmes at the cost of social development. For example, people had been uprooted in the search for jobs and social mobility, and that had weakened traditional family structures. The negative side of rapid economic development unaccompanied by social development could be witnessed in the growth of shanty towns and slums in developing countries where social services were overburdened.

(Mr. Mazlan, Malaysia)

5. Clearly, economic development and social progress must go hand in hand in order to guarantee the social cohesion and political stability required for sustained economic development. A world summit on social development would provide the international community with an historic opportunity to establish a programme of action to achieve its common goals. His delegation agreed that the agenda for the summit should concentrate on the root causes of social problems, their interrelationship and the balance needed between economic, political and social factors such as poverty, unemployment, social cohesion, democracy and human rights.

6. Poverty alleviation was among the foremost issues being faced, and Malaysia felt strongly that strong Government commitment was required in that area. The major constraint on government efforts to overcome poverty was limited resources. The end of the cold war had offered the possibility of reducing military budgets and devoting those resources to economic and social development. The World Bank had estimated that some $45 billion could become available as a result of the easing of tensions, which could have a significant impact on global efforts to alleviate poverty.

7. The summit should also address the effect of debt on government efforts to raise standards of living. A formula might include debt forgiveness and more favourable terms of repayment. The effects of the unfavourable world trade environment should also be discussed. The South had emphasized repeatedly that it could only be freed from poverty and underdevelopment if unfavourable terms of trade, protectionism, fluctuating rates of exchange and high interest rates were eliminated. The completion of the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations was only the beginning of reform of the world economic order.

8. It must be recognized that economic and social problems also resulted from political mismanagement by some Governments, which did not feel compelled to respect the will of the people and to adhere to the tenets of democracy. The relationship between democracy, human rights, economic development, poverty alleviation and social development must also be explored.

9. Employment was another major concern, especially in relation to youth issues. Research had indicated that population growth was greater in regions experiencing economic stagnation than in regions with a growing economy, and the largest portion of the world's youth population was found in developing countries. A country's youth represented potential growth, but if resources were lacking for youth programmes, no amount of planning would ensure that such programmes were implemented.

10. As a result of the lack of basic social services, problems such as crime, drugs and alcoholism were corroding social cohesion and undermining societal standards and respect for authority. In an increasingly interdependent world, such social deterioration must be prevented. To ensure the success of the social summit, Member States should work closely together, guided by the spirit of consensus.

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11. Ms. ESTEFAN (United States of America) said that the United Nations had moved swiftly and effectively to implement General Assembly resolution 46/152 transferring authority for crime prevention and criminal justice from the expert Committee on Crime Prevention and Control to the intergovernmental Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, under the authority of the Economic and Social Council. The new Commission, which had held its first session in Vienna in April 1992, faced the challenge of involving Governments in implementing its resolutions and of focusing the work of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch so that its activities reflected the Commission's priorities.

12. the Commission had already taken some important steps towards pragmatic assistance to Member States. It had developed resolutions charting the overall purposes of the programme, the budgetary changes resulting from its establishment, and the importance of coordinating disparate activities. Her Government believed that, in establishing priority themes for the work of the Crime Branch, the Commission had made a crucial contribution. Implementing the decisions arrived at in Versailles and in Vienna would take discipline and commitment. The Crime Branch had undertaken an assessment of United Nations activities in that field, and would examine areas of overlap and of neglect in order to adjust priorities. Her Government would make every effort to ensure that the Commission developed the energy and focus needed to meet the enormous challenge at hand.

13. Mr. CHETCUTI (Malta) said that the question of youth was receiving special attention from his Government. A ministry responsible for youth had been established in 1992, along with a National Youth Council. That Council had drafted a charter on the rights of youth for submission to the Government. The Council believed that the objectives of a national youth policy should include opportunities for a constructive role in nation building, leadership development, technical and vocational training, the development of creativity and the fostering of self-reliance.

14. The Commission for Social Development would consider a draft of a world programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond in addition to activities to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year in 1995. The National Youth Council of Malta proposed the adoption of a General Assembly resolution enshrining the rights of youth, similar to those concerning the rights of women, children and the ageing, and laying down a universal definition of the term "youth". The adoption of a youth-rights charter would be all the more appropriate, since the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year would coincide with the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. An international youth day, could be proclaimed as well. Member States should be encouraged to establish regional youth councils, and youth affairs should be coordinated by one United Nations agency. More emphasis was needed on youth exchange programmes, and a world institute of youth studies could be established to examine international affairs from that perspective. More attention should be paid to hunger from the viewpoint of its effects on the young. The establishment of an international youth card should also be considered.

15. Ms. KRASIKOVA (Ukraine) noted that the United Nations had devoted much attention recently to social and humanitarian issues. The report of the Secretary-General on global targets on ageing for the year 2001 (A/47/339), his report on policies and programmes involving youth (A/47/349), and his report on the Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (A/47/415) offered an in-depth analysis of those social problems and recommendations as to how to solve them.

16. The year 1992 marked the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, and of the adoption of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons. The efforts of the Commission for Social Development and other United Nations organs to coordinate those programmes were commendable. However, the current international situation demanded new, more energetic steps. Ukraine supported the proposal to hold a world summit for social development.

17. It was extremely important to determine which items should be included in the agenda for the summit. Topics should include inter alia, means of providing populations with food, shelter and medical care, the elimination of illiteracy, demographic policies, and the elimination of discrimination on the basis of sex. The year 1995, marking the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, would be an appropriate year to hold the summit.

18. Regional conferences such as the upcoming conference of ministers of social affairs to be held in Bratislava in 1993 were an important step in the preparation of the world summit for social development. Those measures should help countries to create better social policies at the national level, and bring about a more equitable social climate, creating a safer and more stable life for mankind.

19. In an era of technological revolution and the internationalization of trade and finance, crime - particularly organized crime - was threatening the stability of Governments as well as social and economic development. Despite the achievements of the United Nations in the area of strengthening international cooperation in combating organized crime, many Governments were of the opinion that the crime rate was growing beyond the capabilities of the Organization. New forms of economic crime such as money laundering, drug trafficking, the sale of illegal arms and terrorism demanded special efforts on the part of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and close coordination with the other organs and organizations of the United Nations system. In order to achieve results in the fight against organized crime, the entire world community needed to become involved.

20. Eastern European countries, and in particular Ukraine, were experiencing a difficult period for social development. A balance needed to be maintained between economic development and social welfare. In the midst of an economic crisis, her Government was adopting policies to protect the most vulnerable

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(Ms. Krasikova, Ukraine)

segments of the population. New legislation had been enacted on pensions for the elderly, the protection of disabled people, social welfare of the victims of the Chernobyl disaster, the rehabilitation of victims of political repression and increased minimum social benefits for workers. Legislation was currently being drafted on the status of war and labour veterans to ensure their social welfare, and large-scale programmes were being worked out to tackle the problems of the disabled and the social status of women and families.

21. Over the past decade, Ukraine had had the highest rate of ageing of the population of all the former Soviet republics, due primarily to a continuous drop in the birth rate. In 1990, Ukraine had introduced pension reform and in October 1991, indexation of social security benefits. The current budget did not sufficiently provide for social security payments, which in the second half of 1991 had represented 50 billion roubles. Nearly 14 million elderly people and unskilled workers, approximately one third of the population of Ukraine, were receiving social security benefits of some type. New measures to protect the social welfare of the population had had little effect on the overall standard of living, however, as they could not counteract the effects of the transition to a market economy where some prices were unregulated.

22. New legislation had also been adopted in the area of employment. Three hundred and fifty thousand jobs had been reserved for individuals who could not compete in the labour market. Almost 150,000 new jobs had been created, and programmes were in place for training workers for new jobs and increasing their skills. In the first half of 1991, 234,000 people had come to employment centres seeking work. More than half had been provided with jobs, while 9,900 had been registered as unemployed and had received unemployment benefits. There were currently 21,700 unemployed. The current labour market was worse than had been expected owing to delays in the setting up of free-market mechanisms, and more unemployment was predicted for 1992. The question of becoming a party to two ILO conventions was currently under consideration.

23. Ukraine had a particular problem involving the expected return to Crimea of persons deported during the period of Stalinism. Approximately 500,000 Crimean Tatars, Greeks, Armenians, Germans and people of other nationalities were expected to return to Crimea. After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the weight of political, financial, organizational and other problems of those populations had fallen on Ukraine and the Republic of Crimea. Approximately 7 billion roubles would be allocated to create cities, housing and jobs and to provide material assistance to the returnees.

24. No matter how difficult the transition to a market economy, Ukraine and the autonomous Republic of Crimea would continue to do everything possible to ensure that justice was restored to those peoples. In order to ensure the social well-being of the population, it was necessary to implement effective economic reforms and surmount the current economic crisis.

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25. Mr. KHOSHROO (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his delegation wished to comment on Economic and Social Council resolutions 1992/22, 1992/23 and 1992/24 on crime prevention and criminal justice. The various types of crime in developing and developed countries needed to be analysed in depth. The roots of crime were mostly to be found in cultural and economic poverty, which were preventable through a responsible approach to morality and development.

26. Organized crime, which had become powerful enough to threaten stable Governments, was a world-wide problem, the solution of which required all-inclusive, shared responsibility. Integrated planning should encompass the provision of widespread education, the raising of consciousness about social, religious and family values in order to increase the power of formal and informal means of social control, and the training of law-enforcement officials along with measures to deprive potential criminals of the advantages of their proceeds. In the field of drug trafficking, economic development and substitute employment for growers, producers and traffickers, together with attempts by industrialized countries to curb their distribution, were among the first steps to be taken in combating organized crime.

27. His Government was combating the drug problem with all its power, and hoped that close cooperation with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, combined with the assistance of neighbouring countries, would enable it to cope with that most dangerous plague. His Government also supported efforts to strengthen the United Nations database on crime prevention and criminal justice. Databases on stolen art objects and on drug trafficker networks deserved particular attention.

28. His Government was ready to exchange its experience and information with interested Governments, particularly neighbouring countries, and United Nations entities in accordance with resolutions of the Council. His Government had established a national committee on crime prevention within the traditional system which was focusing its work on juvenile justice and amendment of the criminal code. That committee stressed the need to promote bilateral agreements for the extradition of criminals so as to establish the certainty of punishment.

29. With the recent increase in the number of Central Asian States, it was essential to address crime prevention in that region, bearing in mind the cultural similarity, existing regional cooperation and particularly, the growing threat of drug trafficking there. The establishment of a new United Nations subregional institute in that part of Asia could make a significant contribution, particularly through close cooperation with the United Nations Asia and Far-East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI) in Japan and the Arab Security Studies and Training Centre in Saudi Arabia. His Government had also offered to act as the liaison in Central Asia for Interpol, so as to broaden the exchange of information between the Islamic Republic of Iran and neighbouring countries and to help detect the movement of criminals, especially drug smugglers. His Government

(Mr. Khoshroo, Islamic Republic of Iran)

looked forward to consideration of that proposal at the Asian Regional Interpol meeting to be held in Tehran in 1993 and was anxious to develop that issue with concerned States and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. His country also looked forward to closer cooperation with its partners in the Economic Cooperation Organization in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

30. Preparations for the Ninth Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders to be held in 1995 required two important components. Firstly, the need for early publication of relevant documentation to be circulated in advance of the regional preparatory meetings. He commended the Secretariat's initiative to prepare a discussion guide for submission to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its second session on the topics of the Ninth Congress, and the draft rules of procedure for the Ninth Congress, reflected in the Secretary-General's report (A/47/399, para. 71).

31. Secondly, all entities and organizations concerned, particularly the non-governmental organizations, professional and academic interest groups from around the world, should contribute to the preparations for the Ninth Congress. The Islamic Republic of Iran, whose offer to host the Ninth Congress had been taken under consideration by the Council, wished to announce its readiness as a member of the Commission to work seriously and cooperate fully with the Commission's members to reach a comprehensive provisional agenda for the Congress on the basis of consensus.

32. Mr. Dekany (Hungary), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

33. Mrs. KHANUM (Bangladesh) said that the issue of social development, neglected during the cold war era, had emerged as a new challenge. Progress in that area depended, however, on improved economic conditions. Socio-economic inequalities between rich and poor had grown in recent decades, both between nations and within them.

34. The challenges for social development in Bangladesh were typical of those of the least developed countries. The Government was committed to improving the standard of living, primarily by meeting basic needs for food, clothing and shelter. Poverty alleviation, employment generation and self-reliance through human resources development were the main objectives of the current five-year plan. Social projects were mainly geared to rural groups - the landless, small farmers, women, young people and the disabled - with emphasis on community participation through local planning and resource mobilization. A programme for comprehensive village development had been launched, as had a programme for compulsory primary education aiming at universal coverage by the year 2000. Adult literacy and vocational training programmes were integral components of the human development strategy. The Government had also accepted the global target of "health for all by the year 2000" as the

national health goal, with particular emphasis on women and children. In order to ensure optimum resource utilization, high priority was placed on coordination among the relevant ministries and bodies, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations.

35. Bangladesh reaffirmed its total commitment to the welfare of disabled persons, fully endorsing the Secretary-General's recommendation for a long-term national affirmative action plan for the period 1993-2002.

36. While the problems relating to ageing had not yet become acute in Bangladesh because elderly persons enjoyed an elevated status in the family and society, her country recognized the need to integrate elderly people into development as beneficiaries and active agents.

37. Concerted action at all levels was essential in mobilizing the potential of young people. In Bangladesh, where young people made up one third of the population, a national youth policy had been adopted, with specific education, skills development, employment, leisure and community participation programmes. Dialogue and exchange programmes between national and international youth organizations were also encouraged. Bangladesh was grateful to the Austrian Government for assisting it in providing employment opportunities to many young people.

38. The optimism following the end of East-West tensions was fading, and concerted international efforts were needed to sustain the trend towards democracy, the prerequisite for which was to establish the conditions for sustainable socio-economic development. The task of transforming societies to ensure equal opportunities for all called for a well-articulated and coordinated global programme of action involving national governments, non-governmental organizations and international organizations, including the United Nations. Political direction was required at the highest level. Her delegation therefore fully supported the proposal for holding a world summit for social development in 1995 and stood ready to participate from the preparatory stage.

39. While supporting international efforts, she believed that responsibility for social improvement lay primary with Governments. However, the least developed countries were not in a position to reverse the current trend in the absence of a favourable external economic environment and adequate international assistance.

40. Mr. Krenkel (Austria) resumed the Chair.

41. Mrs. AQUINO ORETA (Philippines) said that the social dimension of development, now in sharper focus, called for renewed efforts to halt environmental degradation, control drug abuse, prevent crime, ensure basic human rights and fundamental freedoms and take positive action for the marginalized sectors of society. She accordingly welcomed the scheduled

(Mrs. Aquino Oreta, Philippines)

holding, in the next three years, of the World Conference on Human Rights, the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and the Fourth World Conference on Women. She looked forward to the observance of the International Year of the Family in 1994, and particularly welcomed the proposal so commendably initiated by Mr. Somavia, Ambassador of Chile, to hold a world summit for social development in 1995. The Philippine Government had consistently expressed its commitment to the promotion of social justice in all phases of national development.

42. The Philippines policy on disability contained three particularly noteworthy features. The first was its unique response to the challenges of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, with a constitutional provision for the protection of disabled persons, their right to be represented in Congress, and the adoption of a "Magna Carta on Disability" prescribing penalties for discriminatory acts against people with disabilities. The second was the emphasis on the prevention of disability in the relevant programmes and projects, and the third was the active participation of the Philippines in international forums in matters relating to disability, as could be seen from its leading role in sponsoring the Third Committee's resolution on disability and in the adoption of the Economic and Social Council's recent decision to extend the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability.

43. The draft resolution to be submitted at the current session of the General Assembly should reflect the aspirations and priorities of the disabled themselves, reaffirming the right of the disabled to basic human dignity, based on a genuine respect for the intrinsic independence of the human person, as expressed through the provision of equal social and economic opportunities. Furthermore, Governments must take into account the close link between disability and economic and social factors when planning their national programmes on disability, and must commit themselves to implementing those programmes. At the regional level, the Philippines had proposed a study on the possibility of making the concerns of the disabled an area of cooperation among the members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

44. The Philippines strategies on ageing had been crafted in the spirit of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, but were based on Filipino culture and family values which stressed interdependence, closely-knit family ties and extended kinship. Only 3 per cent of the aged in the Philippines lived alone or in homes for the aged.

45. Young people still constituted a marginalised and vulnerable sector of society, especially in developing countries. Many of those countries had encountered difficulties in implementing the guidelines for planning youth programmes and policies, which, in the current economic context, had tended to be subordinated to other priorities. In addition to the constitutional provision for the promotion and protection of young people's well-being, a

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plan of action entitled "The Filipino Children: 2,000 and Beyond" had been adopted in January 1992. The Plan of Action was consistent with the country's commitment to the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

46. As a sponsor of the General Assembly resolution on the convening of a world summit for social development, the Philippines committed itself to participating actively in the preparations and offered to host a regional meeting to that end.

47. Mrs. OLSZOWSKI (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)) said that the idea of an equitable, sustainable and human-centred form of development had gained wide acceptance, reflected in the proposed convening of a world summit for social development which, following the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and together with the forthcoming World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women should lead to a better integration of the economic and social goals of the United Nations system and improve coordination of the strategies of its component organizations. Integrated social policy and social planning had UNESCO's constant concern.

48. At a time when Member States expected the specialized agencies to develop their advisory services, the work of the world commissions recently set up under the auspices of UNESCO would assume great importance. The World Commission on Culture and Development established by UNESCO, focusing on a new approach to development, responded to a major challenge of the next century, since one of the areas on which the world summit for social development was to be focused was the promotion of social cohesion, and development with a cultural dimension was a high priority for developing countries.

49. Another world commission established by UNESCO, on education for the twenty-first century, would formulate practical recommendations on renewing all levels and aspects of education and would try to answer the basic question: what kind of education for what kind of society? It had recently been agreed that another commission, on population and human quality of life, would be established under UNESCO's auspices; its conclusions and recommendations would make a decisive contribution to the preparation of the proposed world summit for social development.

50. A feasibility study currently under consideration by UNESCO's governing bodies pointed to the desirability of establishing an intergovernmental social science programme within the Organization. Such a programme, which should be well-focused and realistic, responded to UNESCO's unique mandate within the United Nations system in the field of the social sciences. It would help foster international cooperation, scientific and institutional capacities and policy relevance, respond to the need for social science research as an

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essential input into social and cultural development and reinforce national research, training and information capacities and exchanges. The feasibility of such a programme was also based on the proven effectiveness of other UNESCO-sponsored intergovernmental programmes.

51. UNESCO's contribution to United Nations action in promoting social and humanitarian programmes also included its preparatory activities for the International Year of the Family, to which it had given great prominence.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.